



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
CHRISTMAS 2 —YEAR A**

**INVOCATION**

L: In the name of the Father  
and of the Son +  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**G: Amen**

**PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 148**

**A: Forever let us sing  
the goodness of the Lord.**

L: Praise the LORD from the heavens,

**G: praise him in the heights above.**

L: Praise him, all his angels,

**G: praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

L: Praise him, sun and moon,

**G: praise him, all you shining stars.**

L: Praise the LORD from the earth,

**G: lightning and hail, stormy winds that do  
his bidding,**

L: you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all  
cedars,

**G: wild animals and all cattle, small creatures  
and flying birds,**

L: kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,

**G: young men and maidens, old men and  
children.**

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD,

**G: for his splendor is above the earth and the  
heavens.**

**A: Forever let us sing  
the goodness of the Lord.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**READING & MEDITATION**

*see next page*

**PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**A: All the ends of the earth have seen the  
salvation of our God. (Psalm 98:3b)**

**BENEDICTION**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**A: Amen**

## READING AND MEDITATION:

**Second Sunday after Christmas:** The Incarnation reveals the unseen God to the eyes of the faithful. The light of Christ illuminates hearts and eyes once darkened by sin (Prayer of the Day), and the whole world sees the salvation of our unseen God made visible in our flesh-and-blood Savior (Verse of the Day).

**As you study this week, seek to find the *connecting theme* in all the lessons by using Luther's Four Big Barber Questions to ponder and discuss each individual reading:**

1. *What is God saying to me in this lesson?*
2. *For what does this lesson lead me to give thanks?*
3. *What sins does this lesson lead me to confess?*
4. *For what does this lesson lead me to pray?*

## THE GOSPEL: JOHN 1:14-18

John 1:14 occurs in the Gospel for Christmas Day and for Christmas 2. The worship planner will note each Sunday's distinctly different emphasis. The point of Christmas Day is that God became flesh. The emphasis on Christmas 2 is that the Incarnation reveals the unseen God to us. The sin-darkened eyes of mankind can not see God in his glory; he must remain hidden in unapproachable light. God, however, wanted us to know him—to see him—and so God chose to reveal himself by hiding himself in flesh and blood. This is the great mystery of the Incarnation: Christ is the exegesis of God (ἐκεῖνος ἐξηγήσατο). Jesus Christ—himself God the one and Only, μονογενῆς θεός—came to make the unapproachable God known to us; he came to make the unseen God seen.

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 61:10—62:3

The Messiah promises that the righteousness and glory of the unseen God will be made known to all nations. Then God speaks (62:1ff.) and shows the surprising way he will reveal his glory and righteousness: they will be seen in his people. No longer will they be called Desolate and Deserted. God speaks and makes our righteousness shine like the dawn, our salvation like a blazing torch. As a king's crown shows his power, so the righteousness of his people makes known the glory of the unseen God.

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 1:3-6, 15-18

Paul prays that the Ephesians might know God better. There is only one way for us to better see and know the unseen God: the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, must tell us. The way to know God better is to see exactly what he has done for us (vv. 3-6) and what he will yet do for us (vv. 13-14). The wisdom that comes from the revelation of the Gospel enlightens the eyes of believing hearts (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:6) and lets them see and know the hope to which they have been called. This hope is certain because God's people already have the deposit (v. 14), and the promise was made by their adoptive Father (v. 5).

*My takeaways:*

## SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 16:1-16

Abram and Sarai believed in the promise of God, but ten years of waiting caused doubts to surface in their minds. Though their intentions might have been good, they did not act according to God's wisdom and revelation. Hagar conceived, but was mistreated by Sarai and fled into the desert—pregnant, alone, helpless. Then the angel of the LORD, the pre-incarnate Messiah, appears for the first time in the Old Testament and makes the unseen God known by loving the unloved, caring for the abandoned, and helping the helpless. The angel of the LORD spoke words of prophecy and revelation to Hagar that revealed what God is like. He is a God who hears a God who sees and cares for us. Like Hagar, in Christ we now have seen the One who sees us.

*My takeaways:*

## SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 1:3-14

This supplemental lesson includes Paul's entire doxology on the spiritual blessings in Christ (vv 3-14 are one sentence in the original). Including verses 7-14 ties the lesson more tightly to the Sunday's theme of making known the unseen God. With the blood of Christ God bought us back, forgave our sins and lavished on us wisdom and understanding. True wisdom is understanding the mystery of God's will. That could not be discovered or uncovered; God's will had to be revealed. This is the Gospel message which God purposed in Christ: we would be redeemed by the Son of God made flesh and be presented blameless in his sight.

*My takeaways:*