



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
CHRISTMAS DAY — 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 98**

**A: Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.**

L: The LORD has made his salvation known

**G: and revealed his righteousness to the  
nations.**

L: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness  
to the house of Israel;

**G: all the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.**

L: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,

**G: burst into jubilant song with music;**

L: make music to the LORD with the harp,

**G: with the harp and the sound of singing.**

L: Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

**G: He will judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.**

**A: Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one  
and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our  
old bondage under the yoke of sin; through 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: When the time had fully come, God sent  
his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to  
redeem those under law. (Galatians 4:4,5a)**

**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:

### **The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day:**

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. Christmas Day is the festival of the Incarnation: the eternal Son of God was born in time as the son of Mary (Verse of the Day) so that in his flesh he might free us from the bondage of sin (Prayer of the Day). From the beginning, the solution to sin was the flesh and blood of God.

**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 1:1-14

John's Christmas story begins in eternity within the Godhead. That the Son is eternally God and that he shared in the creation of the universe only underscores the enormity of his condescension to become man. In a paucity of words Scripture describes the indescribable: *Καὶ ὁ λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν.* "And the Word flesh became and tented among us." How shocking that this had to be true! God had to become flesh and blood to be born under law, to suffer, and to die that he might redeem us. John's expression, "He tented among us," recalls the tabernacle of the Exodus that moved with the people of God in the desert. God was there beneath the skins. So with Christ, God's glory could be seen as he came in grace and truth, in flesh and blood, to give us the right to be children of God.

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 52:7-10

The return of Israel from captivity prefigured the work of the Word made flesh who redeemed mankind from sin. The prophecy pictures the watchmen of Jerusalem standing sentinel on the city walls. Suddenly they see messengers descending the mountains that surround Zion. The watchmen shout for joy because the messengers bring news of peace, goodness and rescue: Your God reigns! God is in control and is ruling for his people. He laid bare his holy arm by hiding himself in flesh in order to buy back Jerusalem—not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. God kept his promise, and all the ends of earth will see his salvation.

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 1:1-9

The arrival of God in the flesh inaugurated the last age of this earth. In Jesus Christ all the promises God made were kept. In this age of promises kept, God's interaction with mankind fundamentally changed. In the past God sent angels and prophets as messengers to his people. But in these latter days, God sent the One who made the universe and who sustains it by the breath of his mouth. God sent the Son who is the exact representation of God's being and the radiance of his glory. This is the One who came to speak to the people of God. This is the One who took on flesh and blood and became a companion of man—for one purpose: purification of our sins.

*My takeaways:*

***What major theme(s) connect(s) all the lessons?***