



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
LENT 1 — 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 130**

**A: Remember your mercy, O Lord;  
remember your mercy and love.**

L: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

**G: O Lord, hear my voice.**

L: Let your ears be attentive

**G: to my cry for mercy.**

L: If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,

**G: O Lord, who could stand?**

L: But with you there is forgiveness;

**G: therefore you are feared.**

L: I wait for the LORD and in his Word I put my  
hope.

**G: My soul waits for the Lord more than  
watchmen wait for the morning.**

L: O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,

**G: for with the LORD is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.**

**A: Remember your mercy, O Lord;  
remember your mercy and love.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us 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: It is written: "Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve him only." (Matthew 4:10b)**

**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:

**First Sunday in Lent:** The Son of God goes forth to war and defeats the devil for us. The Prayer of the Day sets the tone for the Sunday: the ancient foe warred on mankind in the garden, but God promised to send a champion to battle on our behalf. The Second Adam came to do what the first could not, and in the desert the battle was joined. *But for us fights the valiant one whom God himself elected...he holds the field forever* (Hymn 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: MATTHEW 4:1-11

The Second Adam goes to war to regain all that the first Adam had lost. Empowered by his baptism and led by the Spirit, Jesus defeats the devil for us. Let the preacher note that this pericope is not a “how-to” guide for Christians to fight temptation. The point, rather, is that Jesus fought as the champion of mankind by walking to the cross in obedience to his Father’s plan. Satan tempted Christ to use the greatest weapons at his disposal—miracle, mystery and authority—to shortcut this mission (Dostoyevsky). He tempted the Son to have a distrustful Sonship, a presumptive Sonship, a disloyal Sonship (F. Lindemann). Satan would have had his way with us, but not with our champion! Jesus won this and every battle with the devil, and now one little word can fell him.

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 2:7-9, 15-17; 3:1-7

God had placed Adam into a perfect world and called on him to worship the Lord his God and serve him only. But Adam did not. He worshipped himself and ate the forbidden fruit, and so plunged the world into an age of darkness and death. Before that day, man’s destiny had been life eternal with God in glory, but death came rushing in the vacuum left behind when holiness and peace vanished. Everything changed that day that Adam fell. But God

looked down at these children that he created, and like the parent of a wayward child, he loved them in spite of themselves. God loved them and us and wanted us to live again—to live the way he had intended—with life and light and peace. So God made a promise: What you could not do, I will do in your place. Because man could not live perfectly and serve God faithfully, God promised to one day become a man to do it in our place. Thousands of years later God made good on his promise in the womb of the Virgin. He became man with one mission: to right what was wrong, to do what we had left undone. God became man to do what man could not.

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 5:12-19

Paul provides a New Testament commentary on the First Lesson and shows the universal effects of the First Adam’s failure and the Second Adam’s victory. Adam was a son of God in human flesh (Luke 3:38), but Adam failed the tests of his sonship. Through his flesh he passed his failure on to all of his children, condemning us to sin and death. So God sent another Son in human flesh to be the Son that Adam had not been. He obeyed where Adam did not. The obedience of the second Adam had as wide an effect as the disobedience of the first: he gives his victory to us and declares us righteous and brings life for all.

*My takeaways:*

## SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 3:1-15

The supplemental reading omits the context of Creation before the Fall, but provides an expanded treatment of the results of sin. Most importantly, for this Sunday, it includes the *protoevangelium* where God promises to send the Seed of Woman as the champion of mankind in the battle against Satan. Inherent in the promise was the cost: though the victory was certain, so was the sacrifice!

*My takeaways:*

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