



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
LENT 3 —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 143

**A: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

L: O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for
mercy;

**G: in your faithfulness and righteousness
come to my relief.**

L: Do not bring your servant into judgment,

G: for no one living is righteous before you.

L: My spirit grows faint within me;

G: my heart within me is dismayed.

L: Answer me quickly, O LORD;

G: do not hide your face from me.

L: Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing
love,

G: for I have put my trust in you.

L: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;

**G: may your good Spirit lead me on level
ground.**

**A: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, look with favor on your humble
servants and stretch out the right hand of your
power to defend us against all our enemies; through
Jesus Christ, your Son, 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: Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the
desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,
that everyone who believes in him may have
eternal life. (John 3:14,15)**

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:

Third Sunday in Lent: The light of the world brings sight to the blind and judgment to the blinded. Faith means seeing Jesus as Savior: like the bronze serpent, we look on him and live (Verse of the Day). We were born in the blindness of sin, and without the light of Christ we could not find a way to safety. Christ comes to shine his light into our darkened eyes that we might see him and live. Yet for those who refuse to see their Savior in Christ, the blindness of unbelief remains. He gives gracious sight to the blind who trust in him; he gives blinding judgment on those who reject him; finally, he displays the work of God in the lives of those who now walk in the light of Christ.

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 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

In God's plan there are no coincidences, and there is no karma. The man was born blind not because of his parents' sin; nor was the man lying in Jesus' path by accident. Both happened that the work of God might be displayed in the life of this man who was doubly blind: he could not see Jesus physically or spiritually. Christ opened the door to the latter by solving the former. It was no coincidence that this happened on the Sabbath. Christ had come not only to give sight to the helplessly blind—he also came to bring judgment on the Pharisees who should have seen him as the Messiah, but who refused to believe even what they saw with their own eyes. Yet for us, born in the blindness of sin, but looking to Christ as Savior, Jesus shines as the light of the world. We believe, and we worship him.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 42:14-21

In the Gospel we saw two kinds of blindness. One cannot see a way to salvation; the other sees the Way, but rejects him. Here, the Lord makes promises to both groups. To his helplessly blind children who cannot find a way out, he promises certain deliverance and rescue. God himself will lead them to safety and will turn their darkness into light. But to those who reject the true God and look to idols, God promises judgment! Like the Pharisees in the Gospel, God promises that though they see, they remain spiritually blind—though they hear, they remain spiritually deaf.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 5:8-14

Notice what Paul says. He does not say that once we were in the dark and now we are in the light. No, once we *were* darkness and now we *are* light. Our conversion meant a total transformation of what we are, and therefore, it will lead to a total transformation of what we do. No longer producing fruits of darkness, we live in the light and shine the light into the sin-darkened corners of our world. With lines from an early Christian hymn, Paul shares Christ's call to us and his promise for us. Once you were darkness, but now you are light. Live as children of the light. The difference between darkness and light is dramatic. The difference between believers and unbelievers should be equally so. They are as different as the nursery and the morgue!

My takeaways:

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