



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
LENT 5 —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 116

**A: I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.**

L: I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;

G: he heard my cry for mercy.

L: Because he turned his ear to me,

G: I will call on him as long as I live.

L: The LORD is gracious and righteous;

G: when I was in great need, he saved me.

L: For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from
death,

**G: my eyes from tears, my feet from
stumbling.**

L: How can I repay the LORD

G: for all his goodness to me?

L: I will lift up the cup of salvation

G: and call on the name of the LORD.

**A: I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; 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: The Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom
for many. (Mark 10:45)**

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:

Fifth Sunday in Lent: Jesus will raise us from death to life. The crown jewel of the coming kingdom is the resurrection of the dead. One day, Jesus will defeat the last enemy (1 Corinthians 15:27) and life will reign again in our new Eden with God. On our Lenten walk to Calvary, the Church sees the Savior come face to face with death and defeat it completely. During our Lenten walk, the Prayer of the Day asks God to help us remember that Jesus, who is resurrection and life, has made us heirs of eternal life.

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 11:17-27, 38-45

Jesus performed the greatest miracle of his ministry to prove to us the certainty of his greatest promise. Death has hounded mankind since the garden and caused misery that God never intended for his children. When Christ saw the effects of death on his loved ones, he wept with them, but also promised them that one day even this last enemy would be defeated. Martha, too often remembered for her busyness, should be remembered for her confession of faith—so complete, so noble—that encompassed everything Jesus had preached. It even encompassed teachings the disciples struggled to comprehend! She believed in Jesus' promise of a future resurrection, and so Jesus gave proof to her and to us that his promise is true. By that same faith, he will give to us the crown jewel of the kingdom. The one who is resurrection and life will also give resurrection and life to all who believe. Jesus' victory in this battle with death was a forgone conclusion: he thanked God for it in advance. But Lazarus' response to the command of Christ stirs the heart of every Christian who has stared at the ugly face of death: the dead man came out.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

Israel in exile was as good as dead. Cut off and helpless, the Israelites were not like an army but like a valley full of bones. Yet God promises to bring this nation back to life. In raising Israel from the death of exile, God foreshadowed the great work of Christ: the resurrection of God's people from the dead. Here he speaks to a figuratively dead nation; one day he will speak it literally: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them. The crown jewel of the kingdom will be given to all who believe—to all who have the Spirit. Reminiscent of the Spirit's first life-giving act on Adam will be the Life-giver's ultimate act on us. God says: I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 8:11-19

The indwelling of the Spirit proves our possession of the crown jewel of the kingdom, the resurrection from the dead. If the Spirit is in us, God will most certainly grant true and real life to our mortal bodies. The truth of the protasis in verse 11 is evidenced by our lives. When the Spirit works fruits in our life, he proves to us that he dwells within us. If the protasis is true, then the apodasis is equally true: God will give us life. The knowledge of our future glory lets us approach God without fear and bear suffering as children of God and coheirs with Christ.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 2 KINGS 4:18-37

The story is heartbreaking: a barren woman gives birth to a promised child. All her hopes and love wrapped themselves up in this little boy, until the day his head hurt. He died in his mother's lap while she rocked him. Can you imagine the tears? Death is the bitter lot we inherited from Adam. But God wants us to know that even in the face of a death as heartrending as this, he promises that whoever believes in him will live, even though he dies. So he lets Elisha pay an advance on the inheritance waiting for the coheirs of Christ, that we might know and believe that Jesus one day will raise us from death to life.

My takeaways:

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