



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
EASTER 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 67**

**A: Let the people praise you, O God.  
Let all the people praise you.**

L: May God be gracious to us and bless us

**G: and make his face shine upon us;**

L: may your ways be known on earth,

**G: your salvation among all nations.**

L: May the nations be glad and sing for joy,

**G: for you rule the peoples justly  
and guide the nations of the earth.**

L: Then the land will yield its harvest,

**G: and God, our God, will bless us.**

L: God will bless us,

**G: and all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

**A: Let the people praise you, O God.  
Let all the people praise you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: O God, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ, 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: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!  
Alleluia. Our hearts were burning within us  
while he talked with us on the road and  
opened the Scriptures to us. (Luke 24:32)**

**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 of Easter:** Hope Restored. The certain hope of eternal life with God is founded on the sacrificial death and victorious resurrection of Christ. God had promised this ancient hope in the Garden at the dawn of time. God had carried this ancient hope in his Word through the ages. How did the disciples fail to anticipate the resurrection? How did the teachers and people of Israel fail to see the Messiah God had promised and delivered? They let their wants and cultural expectations color their view of Scripture, and hope was lost. But God restored this ancient hope by raising Jesus from the dead and pointing his people back to his promises.

**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: LUKE 24:13-35

For these two disciples on the road, it was a day of great puzzlement, sadness, and disillusionment. They left the Holy City having heard the report of the women and Peter and John. But their understanding of God's plan of salvation was deficient: they weren't expecting a resurrection! John puts his finger on the disciples' problem. "They still did not understand *from Scripture* that Jesus had to rise from the dead." (John 20:9). Their sight, logic, emotions, and expectations had led them to abandon what Scripture said. But our gracious Lord comes and identifies the problem: they are not believing *all* that the prophets have spoken. They chose only to believe those parts of Scripture that met their preconceived notions of what the Messiah should be. Our Lord addresses the problem by explaining *all* the Scriptures that showed the Christ had to die and rise. How well did they learn the lesson? They marveled at how he opened the Scriptures to them and restored that ancient hope!

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: ACTS 2:14A, 36-47

This lesson continues Peter's Pentecost sermon from last Sunday with the culmination of his message to the people of Israel. They had lost the ancient hope long promised, and instead they placed their hope in the punctilious performance of human ordinances. Peter's sermon dashes their false hope to pieces. Could there be a better preachment of specific Law than Peter's words here? Could there be a better preachment of specific Gospel as Peter restores their hope through the sweet message of Christ crucified and risen for sinners? Pastors, preach Law that kills and Gospel that raises to life. C.F.W. Walther's *Sixth Thesis on Law and Gospel* says, "God's Word is not properly divided when the Law is not preached in its full severity nor the Gospel in its full sweetness..." Rightly dividing Law and Gospel leads to hope restored in the Savior.

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: 1 PETER 1:17-21

This is the second in a series of five continual readings from 1 Peter. Peter's first epistle is a letter of hope in the midst of suffering. He wrote to believers elected by God but persecuted for their faith. Trials and grief try to choke out our hope. But how empty life would be if we followed the way of the world! We would have nothing but a short life in this world of pain with no hope for a better future. Our hope is restored when we remember that we were bought by the blood of Christ, and that one day we will join our glorious Savior in our heavenly home. Until that day, we live in this world as strangers who are focused on going home.

*My takeaways:*

## SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: ACTS 24:10-21

After his arrest at the temple, Paul stood before the Sanhedrin. The session erupted into a brawl when Paul asserted his belief in the resurrection, a divisive issue for Pharisees and Sadducees, and the Roman officer had to remit Paul to the regional governor. In this lesson, Paul is on trial in Caesarea before Governor Felix. The Sanhedrin had hired the lawyer

Tertullus to accuse Paul of leading the Nazarene sect. In Paul's reply to Tertullus he asserts that Christianity is no sect, but agrees with all that is written in the Law and the Prophets. It is the Pharisees and the Sadducees that abandoned Scripture and became a sect without hope. We hold to the ancient hope of Scripture: the resurrection of the dead.

*My takeaways:*

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