



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
EASTER 6 —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 66

**A: At the works of your hands, O Lord,
I lift up my voice in song;
I sing for joy.**

L: Shout with joy to God, all the earth!

**G: Sing the glory of his name; make his
praise glorious!**

L: Praise our God, O peoples,

G: let the sound of his praise be heard.

L: He has preserved our lives

G: and kept our feet from slipping.

L: Come and listen, all you who fear God;

G: let me tell you what he has done for me.

L: If I had cherished sin in my heart,

G: the Lord would not have listened;

L: but God has surely listened

G: and heard my voice in prayer.

**A: At the works of your hands, O Lord,
I lift up my voice in song;
I sing for joy.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from you. Inspire us to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good, that we may always make our petitions according to your gracious will; 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: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
Alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will obey my
teaching. My Father will love him, and we
will come to him and make our home with
him. (John 14:23)**

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:

Sixth Sunday of Easter: The love of God who lives in us leads to a life of obedience. Jesus' promise of another Counselor is a loaded one: the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to do what Jesus asks. This Sunday's lessons teach that love for our risen Lord means obedience to his commands. Only Jesus' promises make that possible. The Prayer of the Day sets the tone: "Put your Spirit in us to think those things that are true and long for those things that are good..."

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 14:15-21

Because *I* live, *you, too*, will live! Jesus promises more than just a resurrection from the dead for his disciples. Note the tenses in verse 19: in the very face of his own death, Jesus did not promise that he would come back to life, but that he is alive in the soteriological sense. Verse 6 said, "ἐγὼ εἰμι ἡ ζωὴ." Jesus is life, that state of blessed holiness and perfect righteousness and communion with God. Man had lost that life in Adam's fall, and sin and death rushed into the vacuum left behind. The Son of God, the Life, came to bring it back. Because he is alive, we, too, will live in blessedness and holiness forever. We are children who will never be orphaned, but rather will be comforted, counseled, and kept forever. What is our response? Life lived as God intended—a life that treasures our Lord, his Word, and obedience to both!

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 17:22-31

Could this lesson be more timely? Paul preached to a people enamored with spirituality, but ignorant of the true God. To a people who thought they had all the answers, Paul offers real knowledge of the true

God unknown to them. Imagine the scene on Mars Hill. Rising above them, the higher hill of the Acropolis loomed and upon its peak the Parthenon dominated the skyline. This timeless treasure of architecture marked the high point of Greek art and culture, and served as a temple for the city's patron goddess, Athena. In front of this jaw-dropping beauty, Paul says, "God does not live in temples built by hands." No, this unknown God made himself known by living with us, and then living in us. Love for this risen Lord leads to a life filled with loving obedience, cf. the quote from the Greek poet Epimenides (v 28a).

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: 1 PETER 3:15-22

This is the fifth reading from 1 Peter during the Easter season. Last week Peter declared what we are in Christ: a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a people belonging to God. In this lesson he details what that means for our lives: Set apart Christ as Lord. Love for our Lord means obedience to his commands—even if that obedience means suffering. The Christian can offer willing obedience in the face of suffering because Christ rules, and Holy Baptism guarantees our connection to him.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 4:1-16

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they opened a Pandora's box on an unsuspecting world. Life as God intended had disappeared from this world. Expelled from the garden and guarded from the Tree of Life, man would know only the tolling death knell of *תּוֹמָת*. But to this dying world, God promised a Savior, born of woman, who would restore to man life as he had once lived. That promise had so quickened Adam's heart that even when faced with the new reality of living death, he gave his wife the name Life, *חַיָּה*, because through her womb the eternal Gospel would be fulfilled, and this life of death deferred would become a life of death destroyed. When this womb produced its first fruit, Eve exclaimed: *אִישׁ קָנְיָתִי אֶת־חַיָּתָהּ*. Luther offers a grammatically correct

opinion that Eve thought she had given birth to the promised Seed (I have gotten a man, the LORD). How wrong that thought would have been! She did not bear God's Son, but Adam's son, Cain, who showed that mere obedience does not please God, but only the obedience that flows from faith and love. Abel lived in the blessedness of forgiveness, and not even his brother's murderous actions could take away that true Life.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:

1 JOHN 3:13-18

Love means obedience to God. It was love that led Jesus to obey his Father, obedient to death, even death on a cross for us. Now that same love empowers us to love our brother. Hatred and vengeance have their home east of Eden. But here, among the people of God, there is no room for hatred—only love. Christians are to be the antithesis of Cain: we lay down our lives for our brothers, not just in word, but in every daily deed. We do it because we now have that life once lost, but now regained by our living Savior. We have passed from death to life.

My takeaways:

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