



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
EASTER 7 — 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 8**

**A: I will praise your name forever,  
my King and my God.**

L: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in  
all the earth!

**G: You have set your glory above the heavens.**

L: When I consider your heavens,

**G: the work of your fingers,**

L: what is man that you are mindful of him,

**G: the Son of Man that you care for him?**

L: You made him a little lower than the heavenly  
beings

**G: and crowned him with glory and honor.**

L: You made him ruler over the works of your  
hands;

**G: you put everything under his feet.**

**A: I will praise your name forever,  
my King and my God.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up  
in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand.  
Through your living and abiding Word, give us  
hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has  
gone; 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. I will not leave you as orphans; I will  
come to you. (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:

**Seventh Sunday of Easter:** Live in eager expectation of glory! That glory is not dimmed by earthly suffering; rather, such suffering reminds us of the glory that awaits us. First the cross; then the crown. Our light and momentary troubles cannot mute the joy of living in eager expectation of glory. The week that falls between Ascension and Pentecost is one of waiting and expectation for the promised Spirit and the promised glory. The Prayer and Verse of the Day mark the impending nature of our departure and Christ's return.

**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 17:1-11A

Can you hear the certainty in Christ's voice? Can you feel the authority resonate from his words? Stop for a moment and marvel at the words Christ speaks even as his enemies prepare to arrest him, to torture him, to kill him. Christ enters his passion as victor. We know the end of the story; we know this is Christ's path to glory. But what would the disciples think in the next few hours as the blows landed, the whip bit, the nails pierced, and the blood flowed? This is glory? Just wait...these sufferings would not last. Just wait...glory is coming. Look at Jesus' promise: he has been granted all authority—but he uses it to give, not to take. He gives us life eternal won by the glory of his completed work. On this post-ascension Sunday, Christ's promise to return to his Father has proven true. What comfort, then, is his promised prayer for us who remain behind! We are in the world, but not as orphans, and so we bear our sufferings in eager expectation of the glory that's coming.

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: ACTS 1:1-14

The disciples rightly expected glory; they just expected it too soon. The time would come for them to rule with Jesus in his kingdom. The time would come for glory that knows no limit. But that time had not yet arrived. The Christian life is not lived in glory here and now, but in eager expectation of the glory that's coming soon.

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: 1 PETER 4:12-17; 5:6-11

Peter wrote at a time when Nero and the empire had turned against the Way. As followers of a *religio illicita*, great suffering impended for the faithful Christians. The lion's roar could be heard coming ever closer to the people of God. In this life, sufferings will come; but we live in eager expectation of glory. The God of all grace called us to future glory, and no suffering, no emperor or empire can make us lose sight of what awaits us. The cares we have, we cast on him, knowing that any suffering can be borne in joy with eyes fixed on the glory that's coming.

*My takeaways:*

## SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: 1 SAMUEL 1:21-28

Afflicted by her rival, Peninnah, Hannah's troubles seemed neither light nor momentary. Her barrenness brought suffering and sadness that embittered her life, but it did not shake her faith. At the house of the LORD she cast her cares on him and prayed, expectant of God's grace and blessing. She humbled herself under God's mighty hand, and he lifted her up in due time: the son she longed for would become Samuel, the leader of God's people. On this Sunday of expectation, Hannah's example shines: she did not focus her eyes on what was seen, on the troubles of this life, but on the unseen eternal glory that God had stored up for her. For her eager expectation of glory, see 1 Samuel 2.

*My takeaways:*

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:  
2 CORINTHIANS 4:13-18**

Who thinks that their troubles are light or momentary? When we lose a loved one, when we face mortal illness or financial ruin—who could ever think those troubles insignificant or passing? Only people who have a perspective that stretches to the unbounded time of eternity and encompasses the unbounded joy that we eagerly expect there. We believe that one day Christ will present us to the Father for an eternity of glory. Therefore...therefore we fix our eyes not on all our problems that we know so well, but on the unseen glory, the eternal glory that we do not yet know, but eagerly expect.

*My takeaways:*

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