



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
EASTER DAWN —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 30

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

L: Sing to the LORD, you saints of his;

G: praise his holy name.

L: For his anger lasts only a moment,

G: but his favor lasts a lifetime;

L: weeping may remain for a night,

G: but rejoicing comes in the morning.

L: To you, O LORD, I called;

G: to the Lord I cried for mercy.

L: Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me;

G: O LORD, be my help.

L: You turned my wailing into dancing,

**G: that my heart may sing to you and not be
silent.**

**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: O God, you made the dawn of this most holy day
shine with the glory of our Lord's resurrection. Grant
that we who have been raised from the death of sin
by your life-giving Spirit may worship you in
sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
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: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is
risen indeed! Alleluia. For as in Adam all die,
so in Christ all will be made alive. Alleluia.
(1 Corinthians 15:22)**

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:

Easter Dawn: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! The Church gathers at dawn and remembers the early hours of the first Easter Sunday. After three days in the tomb, Christ returned to dry our tears and remove our fears. Jesus wants no soul left in mourning over death. He laid down his life, and he took it up again. He removed the sting of death (Second Lesson) by becoming salvation for us (First Lesson), so that we can call God our Father (Gospel).

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 20:1-18

After Good Friday, Jesus' followers were quick to believe all he had said about his crucifixion, but slow to believe any of his promises of the resurrection. In the early morning hours, the women trudged toward the tomb, expecting only to find a dead man. The sight of the empty tomb made Mary Magdalene so despondent that she left before hearing the angels' message. Peter and John raced to the tomb, but left with only the stirrings of faith. Mary stayed behind at the tomb, alone with her tears and fears. What love we see in our Savior's appearance to Mary! Though risen and glorious, he does not forget a single soul, but comes to Mary to dry her tears and take away her fears. In that one word, "Mary," every Christian hears his own name on the lips of the Savior, and in Mary's cry, "Rabboni!" we feel our own joy at the Savior who loves us like this! We do not need to cling to Jesus' feet to keep him from leaving. No, it was once for all that he died. Now he is the Living One who holds the keys of Death and Hades.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 12:1-6

God was right to be angry with us. We deserved to be abandoned. We rightly cried and feared what our sins had done. Such righteous anger called for payment—for atonement. But here is the great reversal of Easter: God's anger is turned away, and the one who should be our judge, has become our comforter. God himself made atonement; God became our salvation. Jesus rose from the dead to prove that payment had been made in full. The time for crying is over—both seasonally and spiritually. Jesus returned to dry our tears and take away our fears. Now we can trust and be unafraid because the Holy One of Israel is great, and he is among us as our Savior. Our joy bursts forth, unrestrained and uninterrupted, because Christ is a well that provides salvation and joy without end. This is the day of the Lord, and the Church fulfills the word of the prophet: we give thanks; we call on his name; and we proclaim to the nations what he has done.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-57

In the realm of mortal existence, dead is dead. It is death's finality—its irreversibility—that makes man fear it. At the grave, all the hopes and dreams of mortal man are dashed, and survivors are left with nothing but mourning and tears. But look at this...behold! Paul reveals a mystery: the dead will be raised! The body corrupted by the ground will be raised incorruptible, and the man brought low by his mortality will be raised immortal. Dead is not dead forever! Death, in fact, is not final at all! The mystery revealed is the truth that man has been longing to hear since the Garden: the dead will live. Jesus Christ is the resurrection—firstfruits from the harvest field of humanity, and that means many more will follow. Suddenly, the tomb is not a place of fear, but a place of hope. Jesus comes even to the graveside to dry our tears and remove our fears. The debt of sin is paid; the law is fulfilled. So where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?

My takeaways:

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