



DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
EASTER DAY — 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 118

**A: This is the day the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad!
This is the day the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad!**

L: The LORD is my strength and my song;

G: he has become my salvation.

L: The LORD'S right hand is lifted high;

**G: the LORD'S right hand has done mighty
things!**

L: I will not die but live,

**G: and will proclaim what the LORD has
done.**

L: I will give you thanks, for you answered me;

G: you have become my salvation.

L: The stone the builders rejected has become the
capstone;

**G: the LORD has done this, and it is
marvelous in our eyes.**

L: This is the day the LORD has made;

G: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**A: This is the day the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad!
This is the day the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, by the glorious resurrection of
your Son Jesus Christ you conquered death and
opened the gate to eternal life. Grant that we, who
have been raised with him through baptism, may
walk in the newness of life and ever rejoice in the
hope of sharing his glory; through Jesus Christ our
Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be
dominion and praise 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. This is the day the
Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in
it. Alleluia. (Psalm 118:24)**

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 Day: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Sinners should fear God. Sinners ought to die for their wickedness. The grave should be the place of ultimate defeat for mankind. Yet on this day, the Second Adam did all that the first had left undone. Bearing our guilt and suffering our verdict, the Son of Man died, but three days later he rose in glory. As a result, fear is gone, mankind is redeemed, and Christ calls us his own brothers. Jesus came from death to life, and through baptism he brings us with him.

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: MATTHEW 28:1-10

The women walked to the tomb, arms full of spices and hearts full of disappointment. They had come to a place of disappointment, broken promises, and fear. All they had hoped to do was anoint the body of a dead man. A dead Jesus does no good for anyone—not for the women, not for the disciples, not for us. But when the angel spoke, the tomb became a place of victory, a place of promises fulfilled, a place of joy. Do not be afraid! The angel spoke two amazing words, “was” and “is.” Yes, he was crucified, but no, he is not here in the grave. He is very much alive, just as he said. That fact fundamentally changes our relationship with God forever. You can see in it the words of Jesus to the women, “Go and tell my brothers.” Jesus had good reason to remind those men of their desertion. Jesus had good reason to remind them that they were nothing but servants. Instead, he took this moment to call them “my brothers” for the very first time. The living Son of God had made full payment for sin so that he could call us brothers. Mankind is redeemed; death is defeated; fear is conquered. And Christ looks upon us forgiven sinners and calls us his brothers. This is the day the Lord has made!

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: JONAH 2:2-9

Jesus compared himself to only one Old Testament prophet: the reluctant, petulant, and chastised prophet Jonah. Why would he compare himself to Jonah? Because in his suffering and death, he took the place of sinful man who deserves nothing but judgment and death. Speaking to a wicked and rebellious generation, Jesus promised the sign of the prophet Jonah: as he was in the belly of a fish for three days and three nights, so the Son of Man would be in the belly of the earth. Jonah's prayer from the belly of the fish finishes with the key point of his book and of Scripture: לַיהוָה יְשׁוּעָה תָהּ “Salvation belongs to the LORD!” God would make salvation ours, but he would do it by making Jesus just like Jonah. God punished Jesus for our rebelliousness and sent Christ to our grave. In Jonah, we see a picture of both Jesus and us. Like Jonah, Jesus was judged and sent to his death by God the Father. Like Jonah, after three days, he emerged from death to life. Like Jonah, you and I deserve nothing but death. Yet it's God's will to kill us not physically, but baptismally (Romans 6), and that a new man should arise as from the dead to live before God. Raised from death to life, we join with a forgiven Jonah in proclaiming: לַיהוָה יְשׁוּעָה תָהּ .

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

Through baptism, God kills our sinful nature and raises a new man to life within us. The power of baptism comes from the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. So Christ's Easter is really our Easter, too. Our spiritual resurrection creates a new reality for us who are bound for glory. Though eternal life is ours through baptism, its full glory remains hidden until the day of Christ. Until then, we live as resurrected heirs waiting for our inheritance. We set our hearts and minds on the glory that is waiting for us above.

My takeaways:

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