



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 11 —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 42-43

**A: Blessed are they who hope,
who hope in the Lord.**

L: As the deer pants for streams of water,

G: so my souls pants for you, O God.

L: My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

G: Where can I go and meet with God?

L: Why are you downcast, O my soul?

G: Why so disturbed within me?

L: Put your hope in God,

**G: for I will yet praise him,
my Savior and my God.**

L: Send forth your light and your truth,
let them guide me;

**G: let them bring me to the place
where you dwell.**

L: Then I will go to the altar of God,
my joy and my delight.

**G: I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.**

**A: Blessed are they who hope,
who hope in the Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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: Jesus replied, "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:

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: The Christian trusts God to provide. The Prayer of the Day summarizes the Sunday: God reveals his mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. God feeds hungry mouths and hungry souls with his gifts of grace. When we bring our problems to Jesus, he will richly supply all we need.

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 14:13-21

Though saddened by the Baptist's death and seeking solitude, Jesus had compassion on the crowds that followed him and healed their sick. Then he turned to the training of his disciples. "Give them something to eat," he told them (Mark 6:37). The disciples, however, saw all of the problems and none of the possibilities. They could estimate how many months' wages it would cost; they could tally the measly resources on hand. Their math didn't fail them, but their faith did. They did not begin to understand what kind of Lord they had in Jesus. Jesus taught them that a Christian trusts in God to provide when he said, "Bring them here to me!" They should have done immediately; it should be our first response to want or crisis. Bring it to Jesus. And look how he answered! So much food that thousands were fed and there were bushels left over. Here, the Son of God showed that he even cares for the physical needs of his people. Trust in God to provide!

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 55:1-5

God's care for our physical needs is coupled with his care for our spiritual needs. He wants to fill not only empty bellies but also hungry hearts and thirsty souls. "Come" is his invitation; "all" is the guest list; "free" is the cost. What hungry or thirsty soul would turn down his call? Those who come he fills with spiritual food. As richly as he fed the 5000, so richly he feeds his people with the Gospel, pure and free.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 8:35-39

This is the tenth in a series of sixteen lessons that run through Pentecost 17. Though we suffer much in this world, the Christian trusts that nothing can separate him from the love of God. In his providence, God provides for us; in his love, God protects us. Though we are considered sheep for the slaughter by the world, we know that in the hand of our God we are more than conquerors, inseparable from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. No earthly powers, no spiritual forces, nothing in our past or in our future has the power to remove us from the care of our God.

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
GENESIS 41:41-49**

A Christian trusts that God will provide—even when the plan makes no sense to us. Sold as a slave by his brothers, Joseph could have despaired of God’s care and love. In faith, however, Joseph trusted in God to provide for his needs and his future. Year after year, God did just that and raised Joseph from the depths of prison to dizzying heights of power. By the age of 30 he controlled one of the greatest empires the world has known. And it was all so God could provide for his people. He used Joseph as his tool to fill the granaries during the seven fat years that he might give bread to the people during the seven lean. So great was God’s blessing that they stopped counting the grain! The grace in God’s provision can be seen not only in the thousands of Egyptians saved from starvation, but most especially in the grain he provided to Jacob and his sons during the famine. Though he was sold as a slave, God made Joseph vizier that he might be God’s hand providing food to preserve the bloodline of the Savior. How often we look at our lives and see only problems and none of the possibilities that God would work in us and through us! Look at Joseph and learn again to trust God to provide.

My takeaways:

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

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
1 TIMOTHY 4:4-5**

The Gnostic heretics believed the physical world was evil. They demanded an ascetic life that was at odds with God’s intentions for our existence. Paul asserts that God not only cares about our physical existence, but everything we need for it is, in fact, a creation of God and essentially good—not evil. Rather than a life of denial, the Christian life is one of gratefully receiving all that we need as gracious gifts from God.

My takeaways: