



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 2 —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 78

**A: Your Word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.**

L: O my people, hear my teaching;

G: listen to the words of my mouth.

L: I will utter things from of old,

**G: what we have heard and what our fathers
have told us.**

L: We will not hide them from our children;

**G: we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD.**

L: The LORD decreed statutes for Jacob

G: and established the law in Israel,

L: so the next generation would know them,

G: and they in turn would tell their children.

L: Then they would put their trust in God

**G: and would not forget his deeds but would
keep his commands.**

**A: Your Word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, you rule over all things in wisdom and kindness. Take away everything that may be harmful and give us whatever is good; 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: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light
for my path. Alleluia. (Psalm 119:105)**

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:

Second Sunday after Pentecost: The Holy Ministry stands on the rock-solid truth of God's Word. Not all who call themselves ministers do that, so watch out for false teachers! Many will come with wise sounding words and pious promises, but they are not what they seem. The Church's only defense is to stand firmly on the rock-solid truth of God's Word. The Season of Pentecost explicates the teachings of Christ and the application of faith in the life of the Christian. How fitting that this initial Sunday lays the foundation for that teaching and life: the inspired Word of God.

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 7:15-29

The Sermon on the Mount closes with this admonition of our Lord: "Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few will find it." The Gospel for today gives a reason so few will find that road: the deceptions of false teachers. Jesus warns the Church that no false prophet ever comes claiming to be one. We cannot judge them only by their actions—even Judas performed miracles. Outward power or piety merely masks the beast within false teachers. We must rather judge them by their fruit: not merely their moral lives, but the fruit of a prophet is his message. What does he say? He may speak it in the name of Jesus, but look at the prophet's fruit, his message. The mark of a man on the narrow road, the mark of a true teacher is one who hears the words of Christ puts them into practice. That foundation of rock-solid truth can withstand any storm. True ministers of the Word proclaim the truth and put Christ's words into practice.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON:

DEUTERONOMY 11:18-21, 26-28

The words of this lesson inscribed on parchment have filled the phylacteries of Jews for thousands of years. Though they tied them to their hands and bound them to their foreheads, they failed to fix the Word of God in their hearts and minds. And so when the Word made flesh stood before them, they could not see the Messiah long promised. The teachers of Israel became false prophets, phylacteries and all. When God spoke these words through the ministry of Moses, he meant for them to have a home in our hearts, rather than just tied to our heads. Moses proclaimed the Word that gives both promise and warning. When the Israelites retold the blessing and the curse, they did it next to Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal. The mountains stood as a timeless testimony that there are only two choices: the rock-solid truth of God's Word that brings fruitful life or the barren words of the false teachers that lead to nothing but death. How do we prepare ourselves to watch out for false teachers? We fix this rock-solid truth in our hearts and minds.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 3:21-25A, 27, 28

What a great text this Sunday's lesson provides for a Lutheran preacher! The opportunities are endless. However, in the context of this Sunday and its lessons, the point here is the content of the rock-solid truth proclaimed by the Holy Ministry. Namely, that only through Christ's cross could both the Law and the Gospel be upheld. Only through Christ's cross could all God's words be kept. Only through Christ's cross could God be both just and justifier. Only through Christ's cross could man be justified by faith. That is rock-solid truth.

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
1 KINGS 22:10-28**

Never before was there a man like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD. As he and Jehoshaphat listened, prophet after prophet promised victory in the coming battle. Those prophets looked the part with their props and talked the talk by speaking in the name of the LORD. But as Jesus said, not everyone who prophesies in the name of the Lord is a true prophet. Judge them by their fruit—the message they speak. This lesson starkly reveals false prophets as the liars they are. But Micaiah stands on the rock-solid truth of God’s Word that will not be shaken by royal power, personal violence, or professional disdain. Mark Micaiah’s words carefully, and judge him by his fruit. No disguise, or ruse, or armor could hide Ahab from the arrow of God’s judgment, just as Micaiah prophesied. As the dogs licked Ahab’s blood from the chariot and Naboth’s murder was finally avenged, the false teachers were exposed as frauds, but God’s ministers who faithfully proclaimed his Word stood on a foundation that could withstand any storm.

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
2 PETER 1:20—2:3**

False teachers like Zedekiah (Supplemental First Lesson) give their own interpretation, suited for themselves or their audience. Not so true prophesy! Verse 21 is one of the *sedes doctrinae* for the inspiration of Scripture. Using the false teachers as a foil, verse 21 says ἀλλὰ, and draws a direct contradiction between false prophesy and Scripture. Consider the Greek of 21b. Note the emphasis of position: The Holy Spirit is the important one here—ἄνθρωποι comes last! “By the Holy Spirit carried, men spoke from God.” The word is ἐλάλησαν, not a form of λέγω. Man did not contribute the message, but the mouth. Peter encourages us to be ready for false teachers: we know their coming, and we know their ending. The Holy Ministry watches out for false teachers and stands instead on the rock-solid truth of the inspired Word of God.

My takeaways:

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