



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 4 —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 100

**A: Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord a new song.**

L: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

G: Worship the LORD with gladness;

L: come before him with joyful songs.

G: Know that the LORD is God.

L: It is he who made us, and we are his;

G: we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

L: Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;

G: give thanks to him and praise his name.

L: For the LORD is good and his love endures
forever;

**G: his faithfulness continues through all
generations.**

**A: Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord a new song.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, protector of all the faithful, you alone make strong; you alone make holy. Show us your mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us through our earthly lives that we do not lose the things you have prepared for us in heaven; through 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: May your priests be clothed with
righteousness; may your saints sing for joy.
(Psalm 132:9)**

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:

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost: The Holy Ministry is given by God out of compassion for his people. Over the next three Sundays we hear Jesus' Missionary Discourse (Matthew 10:5-42). Last Sunday we saw the unworthiness of the servants God calls by mercy. Today the emphasis is still on the Ministry of the Word, but the focus shifts from the servants to the people they serve. We see the compassion and love of God for this world, love so great that he called ministers of the Word to share his grace and mercy and foretell of the coming kingdom of heaven. The Prayer of the Day is Gregorian and fits the Sunday beautifully as it emphasizes how God protects us, empowers us, and sanctifies us through the ministry of the Word that shows us mercy and forgiveness and leads us to the glory of heaven. The Verse of the Day is an excellent match: ministers clothed by God make the saints rejoice!

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 9:35—10:8

The compassion of God for the lost and helpless sinner is the reason for Christ's work and the ministry of the Word. The people of Israel had been harassed by their spiritual leaders and left leaderless and helpless. Christ looked upon them and loved them, and then he called the twelve apostles to the ministry of the Word that they might shepherd these lost sheep. The disciples prayed for workers and found God's answer in the twelve men Christ sent out to be leaders of the true Israel and heralds of the coming kingdom. They would go with Jesus' message and Jesus' miracles. They would go by grace to share grace.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 19:2-8A

Only the compassion of God can explain his loving patience and message of grace. To a people who grumbled and doubted and feared and would soon rebel, God sent his servant, Moses. Last week we saw Moses, unworthy though he was, called by God's mercy into ministry. This week we see him practice the words of Jesus: Freely you have received, freely give. God sends Moses back down from the mountain to share the Word of God with the people. Moses' ministry was a blessing from God for the people. He reminded them of their Savior God who brought them through plagues and the sea, through the desert's drought and famine. Then he called them to follow their God with full devotion. In his compassion God gave them a minister to renew the hearts of his covenant people both for their good and the good of the whole world. This would be the people God used to carry out his greatest act of compassion: the incarnation, death, and resurrection of his Son.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 5:6-11

This is the third of sixteen lessons that run through Pentecost 17. Pause and contemplate the great love and compassion of God. We cannot fully perceive *deus absconditus*, but we can see his actions. Consider the compassion of God as seen in the sacrifice of Christ for the ungodly world. Christ did not die for good Christian folk. He died for the ungodly, the immoral, the enemies of God who wanted nothing to do with this sacrifice. In short, he died for us, because that is what we were before the grace and mercy of God sought us and found us. Martin Franzmann noted, "Since God has come all the way to us in our rebellious impotence, since the incredible has happened, since we stand acquitted by the atoning blood of Christ, the peace we have with God is peace without end. The wrath of God that looms up at the end of all men's ways to judge them and destroy them, does not loom up at the end of our new way; the Christ looms up, and He will save us from the wrath to come."

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
NUMBERS 27:15-23**

The context of this lesson is of utmost importance. After forty years of faithfully leading God's people through their wanderings, after much pleading with God in prayer, Moses' hopes of leading the people into the Promised Land were dashed. Moses would see the land from afar, but then like his brother before him, he would die because of his actions at Meribah Kadesh. But look at Moses' response! There is no complaint or murmur or cry. See how this minister of the Word emulates the compassion of God and his Son: Moses' first thought is of the people of God. He saw them as Christ would 1400 years later, as sheep without a shepherd. Leave them not leaderless, O Lord! And God answers with a man full of the Spirit to be the new leader of God's people. Lord, give your Church more ministers who model your compassion!

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
2 THESSALONIANS 2:16—3:5**

Paul's words to the Thessalonians center on the ministry of the Word born of God's compassion. The God who loved us also gave us the encouragement of his Word and Sacraments that strengthen us in word and deed. Therefore, Paul beseeches the prayers of the Church for its ministers. Pray that their message be spread and the ministers be spared, for there are those who will work against this ministry and its message. Yet see the compassion of Christ modeled in his ministers: Paul's words are ones of concern and comfort for people of God. Note the juxtaposition of πίστις and Πιστὸς. The solution to the wicked faithlessness of the Church's enemies is the faithfulness of the Lord.

My takeaways:

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