



DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 7 — 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 145

**A: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

L: Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;

G: his greatness no one can fathom.

L: One generation will commend your works to
another;

G: they will tell of your mighty acts.

L: The LORD upholds all those who fall

G: and lifts up all who are bowed down.

L: They eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.

**G: You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living
thing.**

L: The LORD is near to all who call on him,

G: to all who call on him in truth.

L: He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;

G: he hears their cry and saves them.

**A: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: God of all power and might, you are the giver of
all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart,
strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we
need, and keep us safe in your care; 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: Happy are they who hear the Word, hold it
fast in an honest and good heart, and bring
forth fruit with patience. (Luke 8:15)**

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:

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost: The Christian finds rest in Jesus. From the beginning of time, God provided rest for his creation. He blessed the seventh day and set it apart, that man might learn to find his rest in God alone. In Jesus, the Christian finds rest from his burdens, rest from his battles, and rest forever in heaven.

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 11:25-30

Though they had seen many signs of Christ's deity, Korazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum failed to repent. Jesus warned them of the coming wrath. Then he turned to his followers and praised God that the Lord of heaven and earth had revealed the truth of Jesus' identity to the little children who believe in him. He has no words of judgment for his followers. He has only words of invitation, of comfort, of rest. Yes, the rest comes with a yoke—but look at whose yoke it is! Our Savior's humble and gentle heart leads him to give us an easy yoke, a light burden, and rest for our souls. Christianity is not a religion of rules meant to impinge on our freedom; it does not call us to endlessly labor for God's favor; it does not leave us to work things out on our own. No, it frees us from the burden of carrying our sin and puts Christ in its place. It connects us to Jesus that we might learn from him. It gives us the rest our weary souls so desperately need.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 33:12-23

Can you hear the frustration in Moses' voice? Can you sense the worry? Since their great fall with the golden calf, God had refused to go with the people of Israel. He would send an angel, but he himself would not accompany them. Moses pleaded with God to go up to the Promised Land with them. Though the

Israelites had sinned greatly, Moses reminded the LORD that they were God's people. God responded in grace and mercy and promised Moses that his very Presence would go with them, and he himself would give Moses rest. Can you hear the confidence in Moses' voice after God's promise? Can you sense the devotion? "Show me your glory!" Then God took this man yoked to him in faith and in service, and he showed Moses all the glory he could mortally bear.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 7:15-25A

This is the sixth in a series of sixteen lessons that run through Pentecost 17. The Christian life is a battle between the sinful flesh and the new man born in us through baptism. The Old Adam wages constant war. Where can we find any rest from this kind of fight? Paul's words ring true in our lives: all the good I want to do, but I fail to accomplish; all the evil I have promised never to do again, but repeat within a day. I want to do good, but I just can't make it happen! What a wretched person I am! I just want rest from this battle—rest from my failure. Who can save me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord, who came to give rest to weary and burdened souls.

John Donne (1572-1631) wrote "A Hymn to God the Father" and expressed the battle, the weariness, and the rest we find in Christ.

1. *Wilt Thou forgive that sin where I begun, Which was my sin, though it were done before?
Wilt Thou forgive that sin, through which I run,
And do run still, though still I do deplore?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done,
For I have more.*

2. *Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I have won
Others to sin, and made my sin their door?
Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I did shun
A year or two, but wallowed in a score?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done,
For I have more.*

3. *I have a sin of fear, that when I have spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
But swear by Thyself, that at my death Thy Son
Shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore;
And having done that, Thou hast done;
I fear no more.*

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
JOSHUA 23:1-11**

God kept the promise he made in the First Lesson: he had gone with his people to the Promised Land. Many years after finishing the conquest of Canaan, Joshua looked back and reminded the people that God had fought for them and had given them rest from all their enemies. Since God had done this, Joshua called on the people to give the Lord their allegiance, their obedience, and their love. Let the preacher make that same call to God's people today. We can look back and see that God fought for us and gave us rest from our three great enemies. Now, with sin atoned, the devil defeated, and death vanquished, let all God's people thank him for this rest by giving him allegiance, obedience, and love.

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
HEBREWS 4:1-11**

The rest that God gave his people in Canaan foreshadowed the true rest of God in heaven. The rest in the Promised Land was received by some through faith and rejected by others through unbelief. The writer to the Hebrews urges every Christian to heed the warning of the generation that died in the desert. Instead, by faith in Christ, we find the true Sabbath rest of God in heaven.

My takeaways:

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