



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 8 —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 65

**A: The earth is full of the goodness of God,
the goodness of our God.**

L: Praise awaits you, O God,

G: you call forth songs of joy.

L: You care for the land and water it;

**G: you soften it with showers and bless its
crops.**

L: The streams of God are filled with water

G: to provide the people with grain.

L: You crown the year with your bounty,

G: and your carts overflow with abundance.

L: The grasslands of the desert overflow;

G: the hills are clothed with gladness.

L: The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;

G: they shout for joy and sing.

**A: The earth is full of the goodness of God,
the goodness of our God.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us
the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to
receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith
and hope and love; 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: The Word is very near you; it is in your
mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.
(Deuteronomy 30:14)**

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:

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: The Christian is planted by the Word and produces fruit. The Sunday is summarized in the Prayer of the Day which thanks God for the implanting of the Word and asks for the Spirit's help in producing fruits of faith.

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 13:1-9, 18-23

What a description of Jesus' ministry! What a description of ours! The Sower scatters the seed of the Gospel to all with no regard for where it might land. Yet most of his seed bears no fruit. This parable brings warning and such comfort. Christ warns us that the seed of the Word faces great opposition from sin, Satan, and the world. Newborn faith can be choked or scorched. The Gospel promise can be snatched from apathetic or misunderstanding soil. Though we sow the seed faithfully and generously, Jesus warns us that most of it will never bear fruit that lasts. Yet for every faithful Gospel preacher, Christ comforts us by showing that the preacher's job is to sow the seed and leave the growing up to God. He comforts us by pointing to what his Word does in the good soil: it plants great faith that does great things. In the man who hears and understands it, the simple sowing of the Word will produce a crop—a hundred, sixty, or thirty-fold.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 55:10, 11

Though many seeds fall among soil that does not produce fruit, Isaiah gives us God's promise that his Word will never return to him fruitless (אֵין רֵיקָן). The Word is like the rain and snow sent from God in heaven that fall to bring blessing upon the earth and make it fruitful. Just as precipitation makes the earth bud and flourish, so God's Word will always do its work of planting faith in the heart of man and making it fruitful. While this *sedes doctrinae* is often used to illustrate that God's Word always works, either to convert or to harden, the flavor of this passage and its context is decidedly positive. Faithful preachers are the mouth of God (Jeremiah 15:19) from which the Word goes forth to do its work of planting faith and making it bear much fruit in the heart of man.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 8:18-25

This is the seventh in a series of sixteen lessons that run through Pentecost 17. Paul teaches a lesson on longing for God's plans to come to fruition. Even creation groans for release from the bondage of sin and longs for the freedom of the children of God. One day, God will make all things new and return creation to the perfection with which he made it. Until then, we preach the Word that plants faith that looks for a better world to come and produces the fruit of hope that lets us wait for it patiently.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 55:10-13

The supplemental lesson adds two verses to the First Lesson to let the worshipper see the purpose God had in sending forth his Word (v 11). God sends his Word out for our joy and for the LORD's renown. Intermediately fulfilled in the return from Babylon, God's promise is ultimately fulfilled in the Holy Christian Church. The Word goes forth to plant faith for the glory of God and the salvation of man.

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
ACTS 18:1-11**

The field of Corinth was filled with birds and stones and thorns. Though Paul reasoned and preached, one seed after another fell on soil that did not produce a crop. Yet God's Word would accomplish his good purpose. Paul did not have to go far to find a fertile field. He walked out of the synagogue and went right next door. In the home of Titius Justus he found good soil that produced a crop one hundred times that which was sown.

*Preach you the Word and plant it home
To those who like or like it not,
The Word that shall endure and stand
When flow'rs and mortals are forgot.*

*Though some be snatched and some be scorched
And some be choked and matted flat,
The sower sows; his heart cries out,
"Oh what of that, and what of that?"*

*Preach you the Word and plant it home
And never faint; the Harvest-Lord
Who gave the sower seed to sow
Will watch and tend his planted Word.*

My takeaways:

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