



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 9 —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 18

**A: The mighty Lord is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

L: The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my
deliverer;

G: my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

L: He reached down from on high and took hold of
me;

G: he rescued me from my powerful enemy.

L: He brought me out into a spacious place;

G: he rescued me because he delighted in me.

L: You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning;

G: my God turns my darkness into light.

L: You save the humble

**G: but bring low those whose eyes are
haughty.**

L: You give me your shield of victory,

G: and your right hand sustains me.

**A: The mighty Lord is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is
right that we, who cannot do anything that is good
without you, may by your help be enabled to live
according to your will; 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: My Word will not return to me empty, but
will accomplish what I desire and achieve the
purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11b)**

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:

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: The Christian lives as wheat among weeds as he waits for the harvest. In the Prayer of the Day we ask for the spirit to live like wheat—to think and to do what is right—even while we live in this sinful world. Living with an eye on the coming harvest gives us encouragement, comfort, and hope.

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 13:24-30, 36-43

God intended to have a weed-free field of wheat. From the beginning, however, the enemy thwarted his intentions with temptation and sin. How many Christians have seen the evil all around them and pondered the servants' question, "Didn't you sow good seed?" How many churchmen have tried to separate the wheat and weeds in the kingdom with rules or monasteries, with inquisitions or Pharisaical laws? Anyone who tries only succeeds in ruining wheat along with the weeds. They uproot the faith of the weak who fall into sin; they trample the faith of the strong by feeding their pride. The Lord most certainly has a plan to separate the wheat and weeds—just not yet. He has servants standing by to do the work—they're just not us. Instead, God urges his people to live with their eye on the coming harvest. God does not want us to try and separate wheat from weeds before then. Christ tells us to live as wheat among the weeds of this world and wait expectantly for the harvest when the angels will sort it all out: weeds to fire, and wheat to shine as the righteous sons of God in the kingdom of their Father.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: JOEL 3:12-16

The book of Joel foretells the coming of the Day of the Lord. Here in chapter 3, Joel pictures the judgment of the nations as a day of harvest. The day is coming when the sickle will swing and the harvest

will begin. Can you imagine the terror that will strike the unbelieving heart when the sun is darkened and the moon and stars fail to shine? Can you imagine the fear when he hears the roaring and thundering of the LORD? Yes, we live as wheat among weeds, but the harvest is coming. When it does, there will be no need for God's people to fear. He is their refuge and stronghold.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 8:26, 27

This is the eighth in a series of sixteen lessons that run through Pentecost 17. Prayer is a gift from God for all believers who are living as wheat among weeds. Surrounded by wickedness, the power and comfort of prayer is a great privilege indeed. Yet it's a privilege that we so often leave unused or underutilized. Thank God for the gift of the Spirit! The One who called, enlightened, and sanctified us is still at work to overcome our weaknesses. When we don't know what to pray for, we can know that the Spirit is praying for us.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 PETER 4:1-8

Living as wheat among weeds means leaving our lives of sin behind and living for the will of God with an eye on the coming harvest. Although righteousness and wickedness must coexist until the judgment, Peter reminded his readers that they had spent enough of their lives living in sin. The time had come for a clean break with the world. Just because we have to live in the world, doesn't mean we have to be of it. Yes, this break with the world will lead to our persecution. When it happens, fix your eyes on the coming harvest. As you bear up under suffering, take heart and know that all mankind will be judged. The end of all things is near, so live like wheat among the weeds of this world by loving each other deeply with that forgiving love found only in Christ.

My takeaways:

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