



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
LAST JUDGMENT —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 90**

**A: In every age, O Lord,  
you have been our refuge.**

L: Lord, you have been our dwelling place

**G: throughout all generations.**

L: Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the earth and the world,

**G: from everlasting to everlasting you are  
God.**

L: For a thousand years in your sight are like a day  
that has just gone by,

**G: or like a watch in the night.**

L: You have set our iniquities before you,

**G: our secret sins in the light of your  
presence.**

L: You turn mortals back to dust.

**G: You sweep them away in the sleep of  
death.**

L: The length of our days is seventy years—  
or eighty, if we have the strength;

**G: yet their span is but trouble and sorrow.**

L: Teach us to number our days aright,

**G: that we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

L: Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing  
love,

**G: that we may sing for joy and be glad all our  
days.**

**A: In every age, O Lord,  
you have been our refuge.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts  
and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always  
look forward to the end of this present evil age and  
to the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us  
steadfast in true and living faith and present us at  
last holy and blameless before you; 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: Watch, therefore, for you do not know on  
what day your Lord is coming.  
(Matthew 24:42)**

**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 of End Time—Last Judgment:**

Lord, keep us mindful of the Judgment! *He will come to judge the living and the dead.* We confess it every Sunday, but often live like those are empty words. Moses' psalm on the mortality of man shakes us from our spiritual slumber. Number your days aright and gain a heart of wisdom! Today the Church prays that God keep us ever mindful of the Last Judgment that we might be found in faith, fruitful in both word and deed. Then there's no need to fear Judgment Day; rather, we can look forward to the day of our redemption.

**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 25:31-46**

The Son of Man came once as a humble baby, but will return as a glorious king with angel armies at his side. He will sit on his throne, and all the nations will be brought before him to be judged. In this judgment, there are no shades of gray: you are either a sheep or a goat—there is no third option. You will either be judged righteous and brought to heaven or condemned and sent into eternal fire. In our present world we see so many shades of gray, but at the judgment the contrast between believer and unbeliever will be stark. Jesus' judgment on unbelievers will be a just one, yet completely opposite of what he had wanted. Hell was never meant for humans; it had been prepared for the devil and his angels. When children of Adam are sent to hell on Judgment Day, they will enter a realm never meant for them. From the creation of the world, God had prepared an inheritance for the sons of Adam, a kingdom that becomes ours not by merit, but by grace. Both sheep and goats fail to see how their earthly lives could possibly merit their eternal fate. In fact, they speak the same words. The contrast,

however, is stark: the sheep had faith in Christ that gave evidence of itself in the world; the goats had neither faith nor true fruits. Both receive an eternal judgment—life for the sheep and punishment for the goats. Lord, keep us mindful of your coming judgment that we might be found in faith, judged by your grace, and gifted with eternal life!

*My takeaways:*

### **FIRST LESSON: DANIEL 7:9, 10**

Daniel sees a vision of the Last Judgment that is filled with fire and thrones and books. God the Father is seated on his throne with fire beneath him and flowing out from him—fire that metes out punishment for the unrighteous but refines believers like gold with the dross removed. Who doesn't shudder when he sees Daniel's vision of God and then hears the somber statement, "The books were opened"? Being mindful of the coming judgment means knowing that one day the books will be opened, and God will judge us according to what is in them. But look carefully: there is not just one throne here! Daniel said "thrones" were set in place. See who else is at the judgment. The Son of God has a throne there (Psalm 110). So do the apostles (Mt 19:28). Yes, the same Jesus who died for us will be there to advocate for us; the same apostles who preached Jesus Christ risen for the forgiveness of sins will be there to call us part of their Church. Look at Revelation 20:11-15 and see the rest of the story. There are two kinds of books: books of deeds that record what each person has done, and a book that holds only names. Unbelievers are judged on the basis of their deeds, but believers are judged on the simple fact that their names are written in the book of life. When we are mindful of that, we can rejoice and look forward to the end of this age when we will reign with Christ in glory.

*My takeaways:*

## **SECOND LESSON: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11**

Being mindful of the judgment means living according to God's Word, not according to what the world says. The world tells itself again and again not to worry about God and his judgment. Peace and safety are its watchwords. Regardless of what the world says, the judgment is most certainly coming. When it comes on the world, it will be like a woman in labor—sudden, unstoppable, irreversible. Paul reminds us to be mindful of the coming judgment by living alert and self-controlled lives. We are believers and are as different from unbelievers as sheep are from goats, as day is from night. So let's live like it! We have been appointed to receive salvation, so let's live as sons of the light and sons of the day. Leave the deeds of darkness for this dark world whose cries of "Peace!" and "Safety!" will not stop the judgment from overtaking them.

*My takeaways:*

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

## **SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 2:2-11**

Being mindful of the judgment means never falling into a self-righteous condemnation of the world around us. You judge them, but you do the same things that they do—do you really think that you will escape God's wrath? Those are serious words. Paul aims leave no soul unindicted, but to make the whole world accountable to God (Romans 3:19). As long as man still has the righteousness and pride and strength to judge his fellowman, he is not ready for the beggary of faith; he is not ready to receive the radical rescue of the righteousness of God (Franzmann). God will give according to what each person has done—but the point here is the motive, not the actions themselves. Those who live in faith seek God's kingdom and his righteousness—their actions give evidence of the faith that moves them, and they receive eternal life. Those who live without faith seek only themselves—their actions give evidence that faith is lacking, and they receive wrath and anger. Lord, keep us mindful of the judgment that we might be found in fruitful faith!

*My takeaways:*