



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
EPIPHANY 1 — YEAR B**

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father
and of the Son +
and of the Holy Spirit.

G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 2

**A: Great are the works of the Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Great are the works of the Lord.**

L: Why do the nations conspire

G: and the peoples plot in vain?

L: The kings of the earth take their stand and the
rulers gather together against the LORD

G: and against his Anointed One.

L: The One enthroned in heaven laughs;

G: the Lord scoffs at them.

L: Then he rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,

**G: “I have installed my King on Zion, my holy
hill.”**

L: I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:

**G: He said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have become your Father.”**

**A: Great are the works of the Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Great are the works of the Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; 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: You are my Son, whom I love; with you I
am well pleased. (Mark 1:11b)**

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:

First Sunday after the Epiphany—The Baptism of Our Lord: During the Epiphany season we want to get to know Jesus. This Sunday we get to know him by baptism, both his and ours. But the glory is evident only to a chosen few; notice, too, that the greater the glory, the more hidden its manifestation—the glory of our life with Christ is by faith, not by sight.

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: MARK 1:4-11

It's almost a secret that Jesus was baptized; it appears that no one was there to witness it except for John. But what an amazing announcement! As the lowliest of the low baptized the highest of the high, the Trinity showed itself; the Spirit covered and filled the lowly human nature of the Son, and the Father attested to his favor in all that the Son is and is about to do. But it was all a secret except to John and now to us, to whom God reveals it in his Word and in our baptism. For there, too, is a mystery and secret known only to God and to those he reveals it. In your baptism the Trinity is hidden, but really there: the Spirit covers and comes to dwell in you; the Son presents you to his Father as one for whom he did all of his work; the Father is well pleased with you because of what his Son has done for you.

My takeaways:

them back to the Son as rewards for his labors to win them! When you think of your baptism, think of this joyful and reciprocal giving inside of the Trinity at your baptism and through the rest of your life with and in Christ. Who could ever imagine such a thing! That's how much God loves us, that we should be gifts dearly won by the Son for the Father and then gifts so highly prized by the Father that he gives them to the Son! But it's all a secret, a mystery; we wouldn't have guessed it from observation or figured it with unaided reason. So God told us!

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: ACTS 16:25-34

God showed his power in the earthquake. But that display of power created only dread and terror in the heart of the jailor. It was the glory embedded in the gospel, the hidden power of the gospel in Word and sacrament, that brought the jailor life and joy in the forgiveness of his sins. Notice the silly question of the jailor: *What must I do to be saved?*—as though anyone could do anything to be saved from the God who has the power displayed in the earthquake. Paul's answer is *not: This is what you must do ...* His answer is: *It has all been done; there is nothing for you to do; receive the benefit in faith and in baptism!* For believing is not a doing, as Paul makes so clear in Romans 4; it is a receiving of a wage earned by another. So, do you want to see the power of God? If you want to see it in nature, that's fine; but then be ready to tremble and quake in fear and terror. There's a better and far more blessed way: consider your baptism. The Trinity was there in grace and mercy to forgive you and receive you as a child and heir of eternal life; that display of power, so secret and mysterious, is revealed to you now and its benefits lasts forever.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 49:1-6

On the surface the ministry that Jesus began at his baptism appears to be an exercise in futility. But just as the Father said at his baptism, God was well pleased with his Son. That work therefore would be blessed richly, even though few realize or see it. It would be richly blessed in each of those who the Father gives to the Son—the Son wins them first and gives them to the Father and then the Father gives

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