



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
EPIPHANY 7 — 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 130

**A: Remember your mercy, O Lord;
remember your mercy and love.**

L: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

G: O Lord, hear my voice.

L: Let your ears be attentive

G: to my cry for mercy.

L: If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,

G: O Lord, who could stand?

L: But with you there is forgiveness;

G: therefore you are feared.

L: I wait for the LORD and in his Word I put my
hope.

**G: My soul waits for the Lord more than
watchmen wait for the morning.**

L: O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,

**G: for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.**

**A: Remember your mercy, O Lord;
remember your mercy and love.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Gracious Father, keep your family, the Church,
always faithful to you, that we may lean on the hope
of your promises and be strong in the power of your
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: Be merciful, just as your Father is
merciful. (Luke 6:36)**

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 the Epiphany: The readings for this Sunday put a yet finer point on the readings for last Sunday. This is his glory, that he uses all he is and has for us and for our salvation.

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 2:1-12

It takes some time and suffering before we learn that his call encompasses all of life. The self-important scribes and Pharisees who already know everything reject him. The paralyzed man saw a spiritual significance to his misery. Whether his paralysis was due to a debauched life (most of the Fathers say that this kind of paralysis was the result of a debauched life) or not, it reminded him of his sinfulness. Jesus responds to the man's real need, the one that was most on the man's mind, the need for forgiveness. That is evident in the words *Jesus saw their faith*. It is evident as well in the simple fact that the man (assuming he could speak—most of the Fathers say that the paralysis also deprived him of speech) and his friends do not protest at Jesus' words by saying: *That's not what we came for!* Notice how perfectly and beautifully this reading shows us how Christ used his omniscience and his omnipotence to demonstrate the theme of *Christus, Deus Incarnatus, pro nobis!* He uses our pain and his power totally for the good of all, also for the teachers of the law. He did not use his omniscience and omnipotence to destroy them, but proved his deity in order to call even them to repentance. An interesting footnote to the account is the love of friends who let nothing hinder them in bringing the man to Jesus, matched by the indifference of the crowd that cannot be bothered to let them through to get to Jesus. In which number do you belong?

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 43:18-25

What have you done for me lately? That's what forgetful sinners want to know from God. And this is his answer. *Go ahead! Forget all the blessings of a thousand yesterdays, if you must. What I do now is always new. In every circumstance and situation I show myself to be both God and Savior. And what thanks do I get? And how do I respond to the ingratitude, the shallow formalism, the empty worship? I show myself anew in every circumstance to be both God and Savior. Gasp in wonder and awe at the depth of his love and of that phrase: Christus pro nobis! He bends and uses everything to that saving purpose.*

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 1:18-22

Look at the glorious Christ that we have seen in Epiphany! He shows forth his glory in all that he did and said so that we would receive life in his Word an understanding of life that we could never know apart from that Word. This is his glory, that he says *Yes!* to us in the gospel; thereby he makes us his very own and keeps us as his own. Could there be a greater glory than this, that sinners are saved for time and for eternity?

My takeaways:

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