



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
EPIPHANY 8 —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 133-134**

**A: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to  
be his own.**

L: How good and pleasant it is

**G: when brothers live together in unity!**

L: For there the LORD bestows his blessing,

**G: even life forevermore.**

L: Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD

**G: who minister in the house of the LORD.**

L: Lift up your hands in the sanctuary

**G: and praise the LORD.**

L: May the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth,

**G: bless you from Zion.**

**A: Happy the people the Lord has chosen to  
be his own.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Almighty and eternal God, you govern all things  
in heaven and on earth. In your mercy hear our  
prayers and grant us your peace all the days of our  
life; 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: The steadfast love of the Lord never  
ceases, his mercies never come to an end.  
(Lamentations 3:22 cf. RSV)**

**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 the Epiphany:** Christianity is not just one among many religions with each religion having just a little different emphasis, but all saying basically the same thing. No, both the glory of Christ and its effect in those he calls are unique.

**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 2:18-22

For the one whom Christ has called and made his own, there is only one real sorrow in the world, and that is to be separated from Christ or to think oneself separated from Christ in Word and sacraments. Sadness comes when we look away from him.

Weeping comes when our circumstances suggest that God has moved away from us because of our sins, that he has shown himself even as my enemy. Then we no longer see his true glory or our own in the perfect robe of righteousness that he has given us to wear. We start again with a cut and paste approach to religion and make ours like everyone else's: either a religion of work/self-righteousness, or a religion of smorgasbord Christianity—a little of this and a little of that, but nothing that really gets in the way of what the flesh wants to do. Christ gives us a perfect robe and joy in the new wine of the gospel; patching the old religion won't help it; mixing the new into the old will only destroy both. There is no other religion or philosophy which will bring us anywhere near to the glory of Christ and what his glorious gospel brings to us and makes of us. He is unique; what he brings us is unique.

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: HOSEA 2:14-16, 19, 20

The passage, of course, finds its fulfillment in the New Testament church and its consummation in heaven. Notice how consistent the theme is with the themes sounded throughout this Epiphany season: Christ shows his glory by leading us first into the desert. There deprived of all hope and comfort, he gives everything and gives it in abundance. For he marries us, so that the shame of our harlotry is overwhelmed by the righteousness he gives and the justice he earned. That is his glory, that he gives himself, and by giving himself makes us his own, and then takes delight in our worship and praise. What an understatement it is: His glory is unique and its effect worked by the gospel are altogether other than those of any other religion or of any thought that ever entered into the mind of man!

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 3:1B-6

May the effective working of the gospel become ever more evident in our lives with one another and in the world! Then Christ's glory will be seen. The glory is double; first it is glorious in the competence the gospel gives to those who proclaim it, and then in the effect that that gospel has on many who hear it.

*My takeaways:*

## SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 21:1-6

This lesson is a beautiful match for the Old Testament lesson: the one shows our need and its fulfillment by the work of God in the gospel, the other shows the ultimate glory accomplished in heaven for the bride of Christ. What we now live by faith we will one day live by sight. In the gospel lessons we have seen the glory of Christ expressed in his love, even his tenderness to those who saw and heard him. We experience that love and that tenderness now by faith. We experience it in the Word and especially in the sacraments. But the time

is coming when the intimacy that we knew by faith will be ours by sight. Notice how individual the expressions of God's love for us in heaven are: not one will cry, not one will mourn. And why? Because he wipes away all tears from our eyes! The picture is that of a loving father dealing with one child at a time. That's heaven! That's God's way of telling us that finally all sin will be gone and all of its consequences; Christ will not only be all in all; he will be seen to be all in all, the Alpha and Omega (i.e., the sum and substance of all truth and wisdom), the Beginning and the End (the whole point and purpose of history, both the history of the world and our own individual history). *Even so, Come Lord Jesus and let us worship you in all your glory!*

*My takeaways:*

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