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

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 84
A: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
L: How lovely is your dwelling place,
G: O LORD Almighty!
L: My soul yearns, even faints,
G: for the courts of the LORD.
L: Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
G: they are ever praising you.
L: Better is one day in your courts
G: than a thousand elsewhere;
L: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
G: than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
L: O LORD Almighty,
G: blessed are they who trust in you.
A: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
L: O Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants, who come to you in Jesus’ name. Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised; 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: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. (John 6:68 cf. NIV)

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:

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost:** The readings for this Sunday move us to this response, that we strive to imitate Christ by seeing ourselves as his agents in helping one another in their time of need.

**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: JOHN 6:1-15**

Jesus creates a need so that he can satisfy it. It did not just suddenly occur to him that the thousands would be in danger since they had stayed with him so long. No, he let them stay until there was a problem. And then he solved the problem. He does that wondrous thing in our lives countless times. But often in rescuing he gives his disciples an opportunity to help him by serving those who were now in such obvious need. The boy shares. The great apostles become traffic cops and then waiters and then clean up men. And when it is all over Jesus makes sure that what he has done will not get in the way of his march to the cross! What are your opportunities to serve? What do you do with them? There is not a day on which we cannot pray for those in need and then ourselves become the Lord’s agents through whom he at least in part answers our prayers. Do you have the fish and the bread? Can you help serve it if another has it to share?

**My takeaways:**

**FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 24:3-11**

Everyone needs a lot of help! The children of Israel were quick to promise obedience when they saw the might of the Lord, and just as quick to forget all about both their promise and his might. No one helped his brother to obedience. Each served self alone and thus encouraged others only in disobedience, in unfaithfulness. We, like the Israelites, have been sprinkled with blood, the blood of the Lamb. We have been washed and cleansed. We have not seen his might the way that they did. But because of his mighty acts for our salvation we have been cleansed in his blood by his Word and sacraments. On that basis we have pledged to obey and to keep his Word. But we need a lot of help! We need the help of our pastors who feed us as sheep of the Lord’s pasture. We need the help and encouragement of each other. We give such encouragement when we recite the Creed together. We need to give it as well from day to day when we see each other in need of any kind of help or strengthening. How do you spur on your family or friends or fellow members to obedience and faithfulness? Or does your carelessness and indifference provoke them to an evil imitation?

**My takeaways:**

**SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 4:1-7, 11-16**

Are you unsure of how you may help? Here is a wonderful list, not of acts but of attitudes that cheer and encourage those around us. Look at the Table of Duties in the Catechism. Where are you there as a gift of God to your fellow believers? Whether pastor or member, each has a noble calling to adorn himself with these attitudes that reflect our noble status as members of Christ’s body.

**My takeaways:**

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
2 KINGS 4:42-44

God is so generous that sometimes he has even preserved his people miraculously. But notice that even then he used the efforts and gifts of people to show their eagerness to help as well as his eagerness to bless.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
2 CORINTHIANS 9:8-11

God is generous to you so that he might be generous through you. Who will thank God today for his gifts through you? Everyone gets rich in this scheme of things; and God enjoys the rich thanksgiving of his people, who thank him for his gifts to them and the opportunities he gives for other people to benefit from his gifts through them.

My takeaways:

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