



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 11 —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 145

**A: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

L: Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;

G: his greatness no one can fathom.

L: One generation will commend your works to
another;

G: they will tell of your mighty acts.

L: The LORD upholds all those who fall

G: and lifts up all who are bowed down.

L: They eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.

**G: You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living
thing.**

L: The LORD is near to all who call on him,

G: to all who call on him in truth.

L: He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;

G: he hears their cry and saves them.

**A: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; 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: Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” (John 14:23)

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:

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost: Last Sunday we heard of God's generosity to us and through us. This Sunday we are reminded that his generosity in material things should serve as a constant reminder of his even greater generosity in spiritual things. It is a truism that St. Augustine so beautifully taught: There is nothing visible or transitory that does not point us back to something more important that is invisible and imperishable. The readings encourage the response of an attitude adjustment in us that includes a reordering of our priorities.

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 6:24-35

People eat the loaves and are filled! They think no further about it than to look forward to the next filling. But Jesus' miracle was a sign, i.e., something that pointed beyond the thing itself to something higher and more important, namely to the truth that he is the Son of God and the Savior. As such he has power to satisfy the needs of the body; but he always does it to remind us that the greater satisfaction is the food for the soul that gives eternal refreshment. Say, "Thank you," at the table. In doing so remember the greater food in the banquet of his Word and sacrament. That will make the eating of the perishable food he gave all the more enjoyable because of the greater food to which it points, and the generosity and grace of the one who gives both in such rich measure.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: EXODUS 16:2-15

People would still like it today if God gave everything temporal like manna from heaven. And if it happened they would behave no differently than the Israelites did: they would eat their fill and be not one bit fuller for it; they would still starve for their failure to see the true Bread from heaven. Note the point of God's generosity even in temporal bread: *Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.* That is always the point of God's invisible hand giving visible blessings, that we may see behind them nothing but the power of God and the grace of the Savior. Each day look at his various visible gifts and give thanks for them as evidence of his tender love for you and his compassion for every circumstance of your life with him, your God and Savior. For he sustains the body with the perishable, so that he may fill the soul with himself.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 4:17-24

Do you see the wonderful difference between life in Christ and life outside of Christ? Outside of Christ the gifts of food and raiment, of time and energy are all squandered and lost as a foretaste of ultimate death and destruction. But with Christ and in Christ there is new life sustained outwardly and inwardly by Christ. Or don't you notice the difference? It's never a waste of time or effort to ask ourselves about that. Is your attitude different? Do you see a new life in Christ? Does anyone else see it in you? To what extent is the nurture of that new life a priority? To what extent are you eager that others see that it is new in you and your first priority? Or will we be content to be no different than the Israelites in the wilderness or so many of the Jews after the miraculous feeding of the five thousand?

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
EXODUS 16:2-20**

The additional verses make the point mentioned above under the First Lesson more pointed still.

My takeaways:

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

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-5, 11-13**

Make no mistake about it. God wants you to get the point of the readings for this Sunday and to take seriously all of his Word. If we live only for what we can see and delight only in the visible blessings of God without reference to him as their source, we, too, will perish. We will have no one to blame but ourselves. God in his visible blessings and in his protecting providence has been more than generous, giving us all that we need to avoid that terrible fate and to live joyously in his presence now and forever.

My takeaways: