



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
PENTECOST 12 —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 34**

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

L: Taste and see that the LORD is good;

**G: blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

L: Their eyes of the LORD are on the righteous

**G: and his ears are attentive to their cry.**

L: The angel of the LORD encamps around those  
who fear him,

**G: and he delivers them.**

L: The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;

**G: he delivers them from all their troubles.**

L: The LORD is close to the brokenhearted

**G: and saves those who are crushed in spirit.**

L: The LORD redeems his servants;

**G: no one who takes refuge in him will be  
condemned.**

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

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of 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: Now faith is being sure of what we hope  
for and certain of what we do not see.  
(Hebrews 11:1)**

**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:

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost:** Why is it so important that we respond to God's generosity in giving temporal blessings with gratitude to him for his spiritual blessings? Because we are plagued within and without by temptations to worship the temporal and to despise the eternal.

**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 6:41-51

The Jews only wanted a bread king. They despised the lowly Jesus whose humility veiled his deity. They rejected the ultimate bread from heaven whose person, whose coming, whose dying, whose rising again is the only nourishment that matters. At table may we sigh, *Jesus, only Jesus! He is my food eternal, my life and my salvation! Even if I starved to death, I would be full with him for all eternity!* Remembering that elemental truth as we fight against the materialism that attacks us from our own sinful nature and from the world around us.

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: 1 KINGS 19:3-18

The flight of Elijah takes place just after his greatest success on the mountain of sacrifice. As usual the visible demonstration of God's power had only a temporary and limited effect on those who saw it. Even Elijah soon forgot the proof of God's presence with him in that demonstration of power. What can restore his confidence? Only the Word! Only the effective gospel promises can keep him from falling prey to the temptation to fear and despair that all his labors were for nothing. In the midst of his flight God fed him with earthly food to point him back again to God's own providence which Elijah for the moment could not appreciate. But still Elijah missed the point and continued his flight in fear and near despair, in spite of the fact that the short term food sustained him miraculously for 40 days. What restored him to balance and brought him back again to see the invisible truth behind the visible? Not powerful miracles but rather God's repetition of his powerful promises on Mt. Horeb. Even for one of the greatest of the prophets, visible setbacks and temptations can overwhelm the consolation of the gospel when we fail to focus on the promises of God more than on the experience of the moment.

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 4:30-5:2

It is when we fail to grasp that the living Bread from heaven is everything and are deceived into thinking that the temporal is more important, it is then that we become bitter, frustrated, angry, greedy and grasping. For we never have enough of the visible and always see someone else who has more and deserves it less. But when we have everything because we have Christ and his grace, Christ and his forgiveness, Christ and his providential care, then we can afford and will eagerly strive to imitate him. It's all a matter of perspective, of seeing the importance of the temporal chiefly in this that it is a reminder of the eternal.

*My takeaways:*

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:  
HEBREWS 5:11—6:3**

It's not as though the milk, the elementary teachings, were unimportant and now can be ignored. Rather it is time for us to see that not only have we been saved, but that because we have been saved by so gracious a God we should eagerly desire to grow more and more in love to him. That love in turn finds expression in a new attitude toward life and a new desire to fight the temptations of worldliness and materialism. The new attitude gives rise to a new eagerness to live in service to one another in gratitude to him who gave the precious milk of the gospel.

*My takeaways:*

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