



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 3 —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 51a

**A: Be merciful, O Lord,
for we have sinned.**

L: Have mercy on me, O God,

G: according to your unfailing love.

L: Wash away all my iniquity,

G: and cleanse me from my sin.

L: For I know my transgressions,

G: and my sin is always before me.

L: Against you, you only, have I sinned

G: and done what is evil in your sight.

L: Surely I was sinful at birth,

**G: sinful from the time my mother conceived
me.**

L: Hide your face from my sins,

G: and blot out all my iniquity.

L: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

**G: and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain
me.**

**A: Be merciful, O Lord,
for we have sinned.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God, the strength of all who trust in you,
mercifully hear our prayers. Be gracious to us in our
weakness and give us strength to keep your
commandments in all we say and do; 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: God was in Christ reconciling the world to
himself, and entrusting to us the message of
reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:19 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:

Third Sunday after Pentecost: God is serious about his Word in both law and gospel. It is addressed to us both collectively and individually. This Sunday it is well summed up in the pertinent question: Where are you? In the liturgy of confession may we answer honestly! In the absolution and the gospel may we hear God's response! For faith begins and ends with confession and absolution; they are its constants that are never to be taken for granted.

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 3:20-35

Those who do not want to hear the Word and those who reject God's total claim on them in the law and the gospel despise the Word and the one who brings it. Regardless of their feelings to the contrary, they will not be forgiven their rejection of the Spirit's pleadings. Ah, but those in whom he works a hearing, look what he gives! Each one (note the switch to the singular in the last verse!) becomes Jesus' brother or sister or mother —as though he had only one, and you are that one! Where are you in this circle of people in the gospel lesson? Are you outside of it, refusing submission to the law and therefore despising the grace in the gospel? "Unforgiven" is the dread verdict! Or are you inside of it, mourning over sin and rejoicing to be his dear brother, sister, mother? Ah, what grace!

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 3:8-15

So God calls to each of us each day, each moment, but most pointedly in the service: *where are you?* Are you hiding even now when he calls you to repentance? Will you come forward and confess it all? He waits. He warns with threats that he has carried and carries out still. He invites and entices with the promise of the woman's Seed. You have no need to hide; you have every reason in the world,—and in what comes after this world—to confess it all and to embrace what the woman's Seed has come to bring. The questions and answers in Eden are still the only ones in all the world that matter.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:13-18

"All this is for your benefit!" That's how seriously God takes the whole business of where you are and where he wants you to be not only in this life, but in the life to come. If God has nothing more important on his mind than your salvation, what could be more important on your mind? Whatever it might be, it is merely temporal, merely seen, and its greatest purpose is the moment. So the paradox: We fix our eyes on what is unseen; everything seen gets put into its proper place as either serving the goal of better seeing the unseen or making us long to reach the unseen goal God has set for us in heaven. So, where are you?

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
REVELATION 20:1-6**

The center of everything worth seeing is Christ. He defeated and has locked up the one whose head he crushed, but whom we see so often in the temptations that surround us and rise within us. Christ is the one who unmasks that deception, and thereby brings us to confession. Christ is the one who not only redeemed us but has made us heirs of eternal life and holy priests before his Father. In him we are seen by God as offering up the sacrifice of lives cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. So where are you? May it not be with those bending before the dead images of pleasure, wealth, and power who are left behind with the locked up and defeated one! May it be with those who rise after confession and absolution to offer up sacrifices of thanksgiving with heart and mouth and life. The time is short. Do not delay.

My takeaways:

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