



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 5 — 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 46

**A: The mighty Lord is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

L: God is our refuge and strength,

G: an ever-present help in trouble.

L: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give
way

**G: and the mountains fall into the heart of
the sea,**

L: though its waters roar and foam

**G: and the mountains quake with their
surging.**

L: There is a river whose streams make glad the city
of God,

G: the holy place where the Most High dwells.

L: God is within her, she will not fall;

G: God will help her at break of day.

L: “Be still, and know that I am God;

**G: I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”**

**A: The mighty Lord is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O Lord, our God, govern the nations on earth and
direct the affairs of this world so that your Church
may worship you in peace and joy; through 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: Because we are his children, God has sent
the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying,
“Abba! Father!” (Galatians 4:6 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:

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost: We have seen that faith should give evidence of itself in life. But sometimes evidence outside of ourselves and our control challenges faith. The fact that Christ lives and lives in us, the fact that he rules all things for our good, is no guarantee that we will never face fear and disaster. Quite the contrary, he has promised us that we will have an abundance of troubles in this life. This Sunday's reading shows us one particular aspect or fruit of faith: We trust in him when all the outward evidence argues against trust in him.

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 4:35-41

What a magnificent mirror of the mix of fleshly unbelief and childlike trust that describes us so often in our lives! On the one hand the disciples have heard his words of love and grace and have believed them; they even trust that he is perfectly able to help. But in their distress, having tried to do everything on their own first, they can't imagine that he would keep his Word *to them*. He promised that they would be fishers of men —an impossible promise for him to keep if they perish! How kind of Jesus to put up with us! How gracious of him to wait with his help until we have learned that the only ultimate help is from him, a lesson we would never learn without suffering, without the brink of disaster or despair from time to time. Hold fast to the promise that Jesus will not leave us or forsake, not even in death!

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: JOB 38:1-11

In the storms of life we are tempted to take God to court, to call him to account. That's what the disciples were doing in the gospel lesson and that's what Job wanted to do, too. On the contrary, in the storms of life it is God who is calling us to account: Will we trust his Word and promise or our own reason, will, emotions, and the outward evidence that all is lost? Or will faith remain a dead abstraction, cut off from the promises of God in the life we live in the veil of tears, *in diesem rechten Jammerthal*. Have you heard people say: "Since God permitted thus and such to happen, I don't believe in him anymore." How foolish and perverse! As though God owed us an explanation for anything that he sees fit to do or permit! Such explanation as there is, is found in his Word which bids us trust him in weal and woe. His Word he will always keep. In due course he will make his purposes clear, often in this life, but perfectly in heaven.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21

Do you want a perfect example of evidence that contradicts the evident? Here it is: All the evidence of conscience says that I should be damned; all the evidence of nature, given that everything ends in death, suggests that life is under the curse of futility; all the evidence of my own personal life argues that fate and luck are whimsical and I am but a hapless victim of both. But the reality is this: God in his own inscrutable grace and wisdom has rescued my life here from vanity and my life hereafter from a curse; he has given his only begotten Son the opposite of what he deserved, so that he would give me the opposite of what I deserve. Can you think of a better reason to trust his wisdom, love, and grace, even in the darkest hours? Confession embraces also my doubts and fears of the evidence within; absolution covers all of that and bids me trust him and his Word in spite of the evidence.

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
PROVERBS 30:4, 5**

This is our God and we know his name. This is our God and we know his Son. His wisdom and his might know no limits. His love has no boundary and his mercy has no bottom. His promises are as clear as they are flawless. Therefore, in spite of the evidence that seems to the contrary in days of disaster, we will seek and find refuge in him and in his promises that cannot fail! That is the nature of faith rooted in his Word, not in our senses, our reason, our emotions.

My takeaways:

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

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
ACTS 27:13-26**

Sometimes disasters have this as their one single purpose: To teach us to despair of ourselves, our wisdom, our efforts, and to trust solely in God's providence and promises. God does not tell Paul the why of the shipwreck. Nor does Paul attempt to explain it apart from God's Word. Paul had the promise that he would appear before Caesar, and therefore he knew that he would not drown. He had the promise that the sailors would not perish, and therefore he could assure them of the same. But why they all had to go through this terrible experience God had not told him. Paul's business was to trust the promise and providence of God, and then to share that promise whatever his outward circumstance might be. A hard lesson to learn, and one that must often be learned anew; but, as the gospel lesson shows us, when we do not trust his promise, we have only fear and torment that accomplish nothing but more fear and torment.

My takeaways: