



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 8 —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 78

**A: Your Word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.**

L: O my people, hear my teaching;

G: listen to the words of my mouth.

L: I will utter things from of old,

**G: what we have heard and what our fathers
have told us.**

L: We will not hide them from our children;

**G: we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD.**

L: The LORD decreed statutes for Jacob

G: and established the law in Israel,

L: so the next generation would know them,

G: and they in turn would tell their children.

L: Then they would put their trust in God

**G: and would not forget his deeds but would
keep his commands.**

**A: Your Word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; 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: The Word is very near you; it is in your
mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.
(Deuteronomy 30:14 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:

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: With this Sunday the emphasis in the readings begins to shift. During the past eight weeks the emphasis has been on the creation of faith and its preservation in spite of the evidence of suffering and persecution that seem to contradict his promise. With this Sunday the second cycle of the Pentecost season begins and with it an emphasis on the response of those who hear the Word. The response emphasized this Sunday is: Those who have the Savior in his Word share him by sharing the Word.

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 6:7-13

In the forefront of those sharing the Savior by sharing his Word are those that he has specifically called into that office. What should we expect of them? We should expect that they are ready for some to receive and some to reject that word. Notice that he sends them to share only what they have received; he does not give them permission to fudge the message when many or most reject it. For Jesus does not come through false doctrine to create or strengthen faith. It is in faithfulness to the message and reliance on his promise that repentance is worked which both confesses sin and rejoices in absolution. He will keep his promise when and how it pleases him without the "help" of our opinions, our compromises of the truth, our eagerness to be popular and always successful.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: AMOS 7:10-15

False or hypocritical prophets always assume that true prophets have the same motive that they do: To earn a living by their work. But the true prophet depends on God to keep his Word, i.e., to send opposition and to send success when and where it pleases him. Notice, however, the love and patience and mercy of God; even when he knows that his Word will be rejected, he sends his beloved messengers to proclaim it. The unbelieving Jeroboam and Amaziah are without excuse. The faithful Amos has this as his reward, that he was faithful to God and his Word, whether they would hear or not; faithfulness is its own reward.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 1:3-14

This begins an 8 week *lectio continua* through Ephesians. What is the impetus and inspiration to do what Jesus sent his disciples to do and what Amos did? The grand impulse is in the gifts of the gospel received by those thus sent. They have been predestined in God's providence. And they will not despair as they share the gospel. For its success does not depend on them; their work is but to announce and proclaim this great grace of God in Christ so that by it those predestined will hear and be gathered into the family of God. Just as our salvation does not depend on us, so the salvation of our hearers does not depend on us either. Those who are predestined have God to praise and thank for it. Those who reject the news we proclaim to all have only themselves to blame for it. We do not try to square that circle; we rejoice in the mystery and are comforted by it both personally and in our labors with the gospel.

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
AMOS 7:10-17**

The verses added remind us that our message is not always one of “nice-nice.” We, too, need to remind people that God is serious about his Word whether we are or not. He paid so high a price for our salvation that the judgment is fierce for those who trample the gift of the Savior underfoot and despise his generous offer of grace and eternal life.

My takeaways:

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

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
1 TIMOTHY 3:1-7**

While we can take no credit for the success of the gospel, we can certainly throw obstacles in its path. There is a danger that we degenerate into a certain professionalism that ends up making the assumptions of Amaziah in the first lesson not all that wide of the mark. There is a danger that in a godless age we see ourselves even at our worst as better than the common herd. But God wants us to take his Word seriously before we tell others to do so. Have we become so cocky, so arrogant, so self-righteous and self-confident that we imagine that these words are dead letters to us and apply only to someone else. May it not be! So noble is our task, so holy our vocation! May we not cheapen it by contempt for its solemn and saving essence!

My takeaways: