



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 9 —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 23

**A: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

L: The LORD is my shepherd,

G: I shall not be in want.

L: He makes me lie down in green pastures;

G: he leads me beside quiet waters.

L: He restores my soul;

**G: he guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.**

L: Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

**G: for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of
my enemies.

**G: You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

L: Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,

**G: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.**

**A: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; 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: My Word will not return to me empty, but
will accomplish what I desire and achieve the
purpose for which I sent it.
(Isaiah 55:11b 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:

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: The readings this Sunday deepen the emphasis of last Sunday. Some have called it “Orthodoxy Sunday” because of the emphasis on the pure Word; that’s the Word Christ has given and by which he called us to be his own; that’s the Word by which he strengthens us when we are worn out, humanly speaking, as a result of faithfulness to it in all of its truth and purity. The appropriate response to the hearing of the pure Word is a clinging to it and share it thereby Christ’s faithfulness to us finds a response in our joyful faithfulness to 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 6:30-34

May we ever be eager to do what the disciples did, to report to him *all* that we have done and taught. To be sure there is still sin to confess. But the one who looks forward to reporting to Jesus all that he has done and taught will not soon degenerate into a mere professional, whose goal is to win the praise of the crowd and ultimately (whether he knows and it admits or not) a following for himself. Jesus will be delighted to hear us. More than that, he will know and understand that because of the weakness of our mortal frames we have become worn and tired in the struggle against the enemy inside ourselves as well as foes of the gospel on the outside. And so he will take us aside—ah, what a delight!—and go with us to a quiet place where we may hear him and feast on his words for us, just for us. That’s what he invites us to receive from him in our private and very solitary devotional life, separate from what we do and prepare also for others. The respite will be brief, but so rich. Soon the telephone will ring. Soon there will be another appointment, another meeting, another knock on the door. But we have been with Jesus. It is time to do and teach, even as we look forward to and anticipate a return to report to him and hear him call us aside to himself. Those who understand these things have no difficulty applying this text in urging members to also go away to a quiet place with Jesus every day before they must rush off into the world

and to its pressures and demands. May we and they with us love both: to feed and to be fed.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 23:1-6

Woe! What a punch that word has when it comes from God. And come it does over those who falsify and adulterate his pure Word. False doctrine destroys and scatters the sheep of his pasture. Oh, to be sure, he will always find a way to gather in his elect. But woe to those who hinder him in that work, and thus conceal from the doomed and dying world *The LORD Our Righteousness*, who gives his righteousness, who gives himself in his pure Word and Sacraments. May we be found faithful!

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 2:13-22

This is the response that God wants to create by the proclamation of his pure Word: He wants to give us peace with him and then peace with each other as we see in Christ our all in all. That peace comes from the pure Word, not from compromise and error designed to gain peace. Whether we come from this culture or that, are of one gender or the other, have this occupation in life or another, are this age or that, Christ is all in all. Christ makes us a people of God. Christ gives us an everlasting citizenship and homeland. Christ makes us individually and collectively into his temple, so that when we see one another we see the dwelling place of Christ. But that is only true to the extent that it has the Word of the apostles and prophets as foundation and Christ himself as the cornerstone from which every joint takes its measure and has its worth. It is all the fruit of his faithfulness to his Word, which calls forth our faithfulness and finds in it rich blessings indeed.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: NUMBERS 27:12-23

There is so much in this lesson!

1) Notice the harshness of the Lord; his greatest prophet until John made one mistake, was unfaithful just once, and in consequence he will not enter into the Promised Land. God is always serious about all of his Word; to whom much is given, from him much is required! *Verbum sapiens satis est!*

2) Moses does not grumble at the judgment of God but accepts it in the humility that had failed him on that one occasion; the blessing of a blessed end triumphs over all the disappointments and over this crowning disappointment; our faithfulness can never match God's faithfulness —and Moses' example reminds us that that truth is no excuse for carelessness and unfaithfulness on our part.

3) He loves and prays for the people who had given him little but grief and had provoked him in the day of his own disobedience; faithfulness expects that from us too.

4) Ready to depart in peace, he rejoices that God has heard his prayers and that for the future, too, God will not leave or forsake his people in spite of their so frequent failure and ingratitude; it is not Moses who is indispensable, but God and his gracious presence in the Word with those he calls in every generation.

So "Moses did as the LORD commanded him." He was faithful, and the Lord blessed his faithfulness far more than he chastised his moment of unfaithfulness. That is also our warning and our comfort as we strive to do as the Lord has commanded us in his pure Word.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 13:7-8, 17-21

These words urge a particular response to the gospel in those who proclaim it and in those who hear it. Frail and imperfect as their leaders may be, the leaders do well to live honorably and with a conscience that need not accuse them of unfaithfulness to either the law or the gospel. When congregations have such leaders, the leaders will not be placing stumbling blocks in front of the respect that is their due *for the sake of the work, of the gospel*. For faithfulness to the Word on the part of the leaders equips the hearers for faithfulness, for doing what is pleasing and what glorifies our God and only Savior, our chief Pastor, Jesus Christ.

My takeaways:

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