



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST—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 51b

**A: Come, Holy Spirit,
renew our hearts and kindle in us
the fire of your love.**

L: O Lord, open my lips,

G: and my mouth will declare your praise.

L: You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;

**G: you do not take pleasure in burnt
offerings.**

L: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

**G: a broken and contrite heart, O God, you
will not despise.**

L: Create in me a pure heart, O God,

G: and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

L: Do not cast me from your presence

G: or take your Holy Spirit from me.

L: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

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

L: Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

G: and sinners will turn back to you.

**A: Come, Holy Spirit,
renew our hearts and kindle in us
the fire of your love.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Holy Spirit, God and Lord, come to us this joyful day with your sevenfold gift of grace. Rekindle in our hearts the holy fire of your love that in a true and living faith we may tell abroad the glory of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, 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: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your
faithful people, and kindle in them the fire of
your love. (From the antiphon: Come, Holy
Spirit)**

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:

The Coming of the Holy Spirit—The Day of Pentecost: Though he has withdrawn his visible presence, Jesus is closer to us than ever. Therefore, whatever the future holds, we will not fear!

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 14:25-27

The Spirit comes forth from the Father and the Son. He is the Paraclete, the one called to be at our side. He is the breath of God whose holy work makes us holy by teaching us his Word and thus bringing Christ to us and us to Christ. In revealing Christ he brings forgiveness and eternal life, all that Christ has won for us. For when he reminds us of what Christ said and did for us, Christ comes to impart peace with God and with our own conscience. As St. Bernard said, the Word is the kiss of God on the lips of the soul. Therefore we fearlessly face what is ahead, for we face it with the Father's gift of the Spirit and with the Spirit's gift of the Christ's continuing presence.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The breath of God is active and life-giving. How and where is he active in giving life? Where the Word is proclaimed exactly as he gave it. Ezekiel preaches only what God told him to preach, even when preaching to dry bones. The whole of humanity is nothing but dry bones until God breathes his Word on them. He does it still when and where *his* Word is proclaimed and not apart from it. To say that the Spirit is active and to say that his Word is powerful is to say the same thing. He breathed at creation and brought all things into existence. He breathes in the

gospel and conquered our spiritual death, bringing us to Jesus and Jesus to us. On the last day he will breathe again and wake all the dead and take us to be with God in heaven forever. We are entering the Half Year of the Church: Where should we expect to experience the breath of God? Nowhere else than where his Word is that is in the church as she breathes his Word in all its truth and purity! Everywhere else God sees only bones that stay dry and dead! And what then should be the passion, the all-consuming concern of the church? Nothing else but the life-giving breath of God that creates and sustains her.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: ACTS 2:1-21

The breath of God is both violent and gentle. Its violence is in the mighty wind. It is in the signs and wonders that he will speak into being to accompany the end of the age, prefigured by the mighty wind on this day. His violent breath however does not create faith. It creates curiosity this day, and one day will inspire dread in those who have not listened to his gentle voice in the gospel. It is when he breathes words through his apostles and prophets that he is most mighty *for us*. For then he creates faith which calls on the Name of the Lord, the Savior. That is the Spirit's real work and glory, bringing us to trust in Jesus for our salvation. Fear is gone and replaced with joyful confidence wrought by the Spirit in the gospel. Therefore, breathe on us, O Breath of God, that we may see Jesus and long for his coming again; pour on us your Spirit that we may be faithful to the Word he speaks while we wait!

My takeaways:

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