



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 13 — 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 1

**A: Blessed are they who hope,
who hope in the Lord.**

L: Blessed is the man who does not walk in the
counsel of the wicked

G: or stand in the way of sinners.

L: But his delight is in the law of the LORD,

G: and on his law he meditates day and night.

L: He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yield its fruit in season

**G: and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.**

L: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the
judgment,

**G: nor sinners in the assembly of the
righteous.**

L: For the LORD watches over the way of the
righteous,

G: but the way of the wicked will perish.

**A: Blessed are they who hope,
who hope in the Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; 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: The Word of God is living and active,
sharper than any two-edged sword,
discerning the thoughts and intentions of the
heart. (Hebrews 4:12 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:

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Are the beautiful truths of the gospel, not least those taught by Jesus in John 6, easy for us to grasp? Not at all! In fact for the natural man and his fallen reason they are impossible. This Sunday recognizes the difficulty and calls for the response of a sacrificium intellecti, a sacrifice that only the Spirit can work if fallen reason is to be overcome as we receive and rejoice in the saving truths of the gospel.

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 6:51-58

But Reverend, that just isn't the way I see it! What pastor hasn't heard that a thousand times from the outsider? It is the natural response to every doctrine in the Bible and most importantly, with the chief doctrines of the Bible. Jesus knows that very well. He even delights in it. And so he tells us things in his Word that by ourselves we would never believe. Then, by his telling it, the mighty Word overcomes us. God made flesh for us feeds us with himself given for the life of the world!? Yes, it is so! The wisdom of God is not merely more clever than the wisdom of the philosopher or anyone else in this world. It is altogether other and unique. It is powerful, so powerful that it overcomes the death of unbelief and the arrogance of fallen reason. Most gladly we bring to him the consequent sacrifice of all our own wisdom and our own opinions and lay them at the foot of the cross as so much foolishness and death—bringing nonsense. Most gladly we go to war against all of our own thoughts that contradict any part of his Word. For all other bread for the soul perishes in its use, and those who eat it perish with it. The gospel is not just one religious tradition among many; it is the only truth that gives life and salvation.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: PROVERBS 9:1-6

Wisdom is personified. Christ is that wisdom. Wisdom is much more than mere knowledge or skill. Wisdom is that attribute of God which is Christ and which is revealed in Christ and which Christ imparts as we eat his flesh by faith and live. The wise of the world despise the simple. And the simple do not understand the wise. But he who is wisdom knows that we are all simple, too simple to understand the way of salvation or the meaning of life or the point of death. He does not despise and spurn us in our simplicity; he calls; he invites; he lures and entices (as Luther says so often) with a banquet of understanding for this life and for the life to come. He is the host, and he is the banquet. An understanding of him, of ourselves, of life and death—it is all there for those who come and eat, inspired and moved by his invitation.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 5:15-20

Be careful! The days are evil. Only the wise recognize it and know how to triumph over the evil that would drag them down into hell itself. How do we triumph over the evil and rejoice while doing it? We stay close to the source of wisdom and to the power contained in the Word. We read the Bible and sing it. We speak its saving wisdom to encourage ourselves and those who are with us. And so we grow in our joy at leaving behind the wisdom of our own reason and delight instead in his saving and conquering wisdom.

My takeaways:

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