



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
PENTECOST 14 — 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 71

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

L: In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;

G: let me never be put to shame.

L: Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness;

G: turn your ear to me and save me.

L: Be my rock of refuge to which I can always go;

G: for you are my rock and my fortress.

L: Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,

**G: and to this day I declare your marvelous
deeds.**

L: Even when I am old and gray,

G: do not forsake me, O God,

L: till I declare your power to the next generation,

G: your might to all who are to come.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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: Jesus Christ has destroyed death and
brought life and immortality to light through
the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10b 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:

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: It is not only the outsider who turns aside from the Wisdom which is Christ. Many who have heard the Word with us also go away when some part of it conflicts with their own thinking. The sacrificium intellecti is not a onetime thing. It is a sacrifice that needs to be renewed often, in every stage of life, as new threats come that oppose Wisdom and its expression in 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: JOHN 6:60-69

The stumbling block thrown in his path by the rationalism of many in the crowd does not move Jesus to soften the message. Instead he repeats it with emphasis. Through their own fault many of the hearers, yes, even one of the Twelve, refuse to bend their thinking to his Word. Instead of the attitude of Samuel, Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening, their response is, Listen, we are speaking and this is what WE think! But Jesus is the one who descended for our salvation. Jesus is the one who went back to the right hand of the Father to rule all things in heaven and on earth. Jesus is the one who will return to judge all mankind. Do you really think your opinion matters or that it is more likely to be on the mark than his? What folly! But still many came and then went away. How many times in your life have you been tempted to go away to what your own wisdom preferred? How many times have you actually done it? But today, hear his voice and answer: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God!

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: JOSHUA 24:1, 2A, 14-18

We want to answer with Peter in the gospel lesson. We want to answer as well with Joshua and with the children of Israel at Joshua's farewell. Those answers were right answers. But both the history of Peter and the history of Israel demonstrate that such an answer once given isn't necessarily an answer given once and for all. Peter forgot the answer and denied his Lord. Many of the children of Israel soon turned their back on the Lord and forgot his grace in favor of the gods of this world. What is your answer today? May you repeat it each day this week. May you fix it firmly in your mind as you turn to the business and pleasures of the day, lest you forget, and you also go away.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: EPHESIANS 5:21-31

Here is a doctrine that moves many in our day to forget the goodness and grace of the Lord and to go away. But notice the context in which the distinction in the roles of husband and wife is placed; it is rooted in a far greater mystery and doctrine, the doctrine of the mystical body of Christ. If the Spirit in the Word performs the miracle of faith in that doctrine, then acceptance of the proper roles of husband and wife should be an easy thing. And if it isn't so easy, well then, to whom shall you go if you decide to be the head of Christ's body instead of letting him be the head? No, we will not go away! Let the world and our own opinions rage as they will. Christ is the head; he gave himself so that by the wisdom of his Word he might become my head and take me to be where he has gone. I will not depart from a single word that the mouth of Christ, my head, will speak, no matter what my inclinations may say, no matter what fallen reason may proclaim, no matter what delusions our decadent culture may cherish! In living out the proper distinctions and roles for man and woman I will remember that such a life should reflect the distinctive roles of Christ the head and myself as his member in union with others striving to live that same reflection.

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
EXODUS 7:8-13**

St. Augustine makes the point that the devil cannot create anything; he can only damage and try to destroy what God has made. Here the devil gives it his best shot and ends up with nothing that can survive what God has made by his mighty power in his Word. But notice that Pharaoh's heart nevertheless became hard because he refused to listen. He saw, but he did not hear! Even God's mighty acts, be they in nature or in an extraordinary miracle, do not create faith in those who only see. They need to hear and hear and hear the Word of the Lord (Romans 10:6). Notice, too, that Pharaoh's unbelief is altogether contrary to reason, given the demonstration of God's power through Moses. Many like to say that the gospel is not reasonable, and therefore they will not believe it. In point of fact, when they reject the gospel, they cling to something else that is a delusion and is itself utterly unreasonable. And so God makes fools of those who deem themselves wise.

My takeaways:

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

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
HEBREWS 11:24-28**

By the standard of the world Moses was a fool. But God trained him early in life to cling to the promises of God rather than to the wisdom and wealth and pleasure of the Egyptians. He had no outward evidence that God's wisdom was preferable and ultimately the only true wisdom. But so powerful was the promise, that in spite of all the evidence to the contrary he continued to cling to the promise implicit especially in the Passover. We used to put blinders on horses so that they would not be distracted by what was going on around them but would pull the wagon straight ahead. May we close our eyes to the distractions of the world's wisdom and pleasure and look only to the wisdom which is not only true but saving.

My takeaways: