



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
PENTECOST 16 — 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 146**

**A: I will praise your name forever,  
my King and my God.**

L: Praise the LORD, O my soul.

**G: I will sing praise to my God as long as I  
live.**

L: Do not put your trust in princes,

**G: in mortal men, who cannot save.**

L: Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,

**G: the maker of heaven and earth.**

L: The LORD gives food to the hungry,

**G: the LORD sets prisoners free.**

L: The LORD gives sight to the blind,

**G: the LORD lifts up those who are bowed  
down.**

L: The LORD watches over the outcast

**G: and sustains the fatherless and the widow.**

L: The LORD remains faithful forever.

**G: He upholds the cause of the oppressed.**

**A: I will praise your name forever,  
my King and my God.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father 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: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will  
say, Rejoice. (Philippians 4:4 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:

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost:** Unbelief mocks and says that if God did all things well and was the source of all good because he is good, then he shouldn't allow misery and need in the first place. But especially in need and suffering God does all things well; that truth is the center of the Christian's quiet confidence. It is the reason for his hope based on the promises of God and earned for us by the work of Christ and its eternal consequence for us.

**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 7:31-37

That Jesus does all things well is, of course, biblical understatement. Consider just how well he does all things. There is nothing mechanical in his manner or method. He takes into account this individual's very individual needs. The poor man is frightened and comprehends nothing of what the crowd is doing with him. But Jesus understands. Jesus deals with even the momentary fear of the man most gently. That is how he always deals with us, one at a time, with perfect understanding and compassion. He allows the needs that we need and then helps and strengthens and ultimately delivers us at just the right moment and in just the right way. (Notice again Jesus' command after he has helped and healed; he wants no publicity to get in the way of his march to the cross and the ultimate help and salvation that he will win there for us.)

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 35:4-7A

This reading depicts our spiritual needs in physical terms. Physical weakness and trouble mirror the absolute need in which we were born. Troubles, fears, weaknesses of every sort are often God's rich blessings; for they drive us to despair of our own strength and understanding and to be more ready to receive from his Word ears that hear and eyes that see. The reading is a promise of just such help from the Messiah, who alone can solve that absolute spiritual need and who alone rules over the physical reflections of that need so that they are turned to blessing. Yes, he does indeed do all things well!

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: JAMES 1:17-27

Calls for a sanctified life always find their basis and their motivation in the precious gospel message of God's gifts to us. His gifts are all good and perfect (even and especially the crosses—a point coming up on another Sunday) because God is changeless; he only knows how to give good and perfect gifts that suit our needs and fit our circumstances in life. But to recognize those gifts and to appreciate them and then make use of them in life we need the Word. The Word clears the clutter from life and the temptation to hypocrisy from the heart by showing us the first and best gifts, the gifts of salvation and adoption. With such gifts how could we doubt that anything he does in our lives would be anything but good and perfect? Therefore, listen to the Word; be honest with God in confession; get on with the life that reflects the good and perfect gifts of God. For his gifts are given to us as a reflection of his goodness, so that we can reflect his goodness in our use of those gifts.

*My takeaways:*

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:  
ACTS 3:1-10**

The (apparently) infrequent miracles of the apostles after Jesus' ascension served to confirm and attest their apostolic office and authority; that is, they were designed to get the attention of the people for the Word that Christ had given them to proclaim. So this man's years of suffering and pain are overwhelmed by the gift of God in a healing that brought him to praise the Savior in whose name he was healed. It also amazed those who saw or heard what had happened to the man. While God does not promise such miraculous healing—most of those begging at the temple gates were not healed—he nevertheless often keeps much suffering from our door, delivers us from such other suffering as he permits to enter it, and preserves us to endure when relief is not soon at hand. The purpose of all three is that we may praise him for his goodness in weal and woe so that others may see in our strength a reason to listen to the Word of the Lord. The witness of suffering Christians no less than that of those delivered from suffering is a powerful pointer to the Savior and his Word.

*My takeaways:*

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