



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
PENTECOST 17 — 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 116**

**A: I will walk in the presence of the Lord,  
in the land of the living.**

L: I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;

**G: he heard my cry for mercy.**

L: Because he turned his ear to me,

**G: I will call on him as long as I live.**

L: The LORD is gracious and righteous;

**G: when I was in great need, he saved me.**

L: For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from  
death,

**G: my eyes from tears, my feet from  
stumbling.**

L: How can I repay the LORD

**G: for all his goodness to me?**

L: I will lift up the cup of salvation

**G: and call on the name of the LORD.**

**A: I will walk in the presence of the Lord,  
in the land of the living.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may  
always go before and follow after us that, loving you  
with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every  
good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus  
Christ 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: Everything that was written in the past  
was written to teach us, so that through  
endurance and the encouragement of the  
Scriptures we might have hope.  
(Romans 15:4 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:

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost:** Just how deeply should the Word of God penetrate heart and life? Jesus himself is the model in whose footsteps we follow, stumbling though that following be.

**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 8:27-35

Those who confess that Jesus is the Christ and not just another great prophet or teacher or role model for good living must let even this truth penetrate: Christ came to suffer, Christ came to die; he did it in perfect obedience to his Father; he did it in perfect love for us and for our salvation. His obedience and love were not cheap. Ours should not be either. We are not saved to sin all the more. We are rescued for life and for life eternal but only in the procession of cross bearers following in his footsteps. Notice that our cross bearing is a necessary consequence of believing, but it is not a cause of salvation. Notice, too, the emphasis on the singular in vss. 34-35: Anyone, whoever. No one cross-less can hide in the procession of cross bearers; no cross, no Christian. As Peter well understood, the cross is always painful. The cross is anything that we suffer in consequence of our faith in Christ, e.g., outward persecution or ridicule, but even more often, internal struggle with temptations to pet sins and to sins of moral indifference and laziness, and to sins of either self-righteousness or of despair.

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 50:4-10

Jesus is the example of patient endurance in suffering. He listened to the Word of his Father and obeyed it perfectly. But no one suffered as he did. What was the outcome of his suffering? In his resurrection he was triumphant both in achieving the divinely ordained goal of our redemption and was delivered from all sorrow and pain. Those who now walk in darkness, i.e., who do not see the salvation and rescue promised by God, should nevertheless trust in his promise; for at the best time, when the goal is achieved, they will yet see that God is faithful to his Word. God kept his promise to his Son; he will not fail to keep his Son's promise to us!

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: JAMES 2:1-5, 8-10, 14-18

Christians suffer as they bear the cross. That's Jesus' promise. But we should not be the ones who inflict suffering on our brothers and sisters or make what they suffer more painful than it already is. What a shame and a scandal it would be to shun the poor because they are poor and favor the rich because they are rich. Would that not be a cross? For the poor would be tempted to think that God does not love them and has proven it in their poverty and in the way their fellow Christians treat them. The rich would likewise be scandalized by the temptation to think that their favored treatment was due to their merit before God as well as man, that God made them rich because he loved them more. Likewise doing nothing to help the suffering brother or sister presses the cross on their shoulders all the harder; seeing no love from their brothers and sisters, the dark cloud of despair that God does not love them either will hang all the more heavily over their heads.

*My takeaways:*

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:  
JEREMIAH 38:1-13**

Jeremiah warned the people of the coming judgment of God. How God loved his people! He always sacrifices his best to save the perverse and the rebellious, beginning with his own Son and then with the lives of his apostles and prophets. How disgraceful that for the sake of God's love and faithfulness, the faithful and loving servant receives abuse and persecution! Notice that the most severe persecution and abuse comes from those who should know better, and the only help comes from an outsider, a foreigner. Not much has changed, has it? Warn the nation about the sword of God's justice hanging over a people that defends the murder of children, every form of perversion, and that insists God's truth is relative and not absolute. But do not expect a medal! Expect what God promised: the cross. Or would we rather not? Listen again to the closing words of the gospel lesson.

*My takeaways:*

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

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:  
1 PETER 4:12-19**

The cross by definition is anything that we suffer as a consequence of our relationship with Christ. It is not the suffering that is ours in consequence of our own sins; the bankrupt gambler, the divorced adulterer, and the imprisoned murderer are receiving the due reward of their evil deeds. But the soul that struggles with temptations to be a wastrel or impure or violent, suffers in the struggle. His conscience suffers when he wants the forbidden as well as when he actually falls. Yes, it is indeed hard even for the righteous to be saved! Even in triumph over temptation there is temptation, the temptation to be self-righteous. Therefore, in every day and every way we have but this consolation, that our righteousness can only be the gift of the Crucified, and that God will not despise us in our struggle to follow under his cross.

*My takeaways:*