



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
PENTECOST 18 — 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 31**

**A: Surely, it is God who saves me;  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold  
and my sure defense,  
and he will be my Savior.**

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

**G: deliver me in your righteousness.**

L: Be my rock of refuge,

**G: a strong fortress to save me.**

L: Into your hands I commit my spirit;

**G: redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth.**

L: My times are in your hands;

**G: save me in your unfailing love.**

L: How great is your goodness,

**G: which you have stored up for those who  
fear you.**

L: You heard my cry for mercy

**G: when I called to you for help.**

**A: Surely, it is God who saves me;  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold  
and my sure defense,  
and he will be my Savior.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; 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: My grace is sufficient for you, for my  
power is made perfect in weakness.  
(2 Corinthians 12:9a)**

**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:

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost:** See how deeply the love from God penetrates our heart and soul. We are called to reflect that intense and all-embracing grace in our lives and attitudes toward those around us. Indeed that should be our ambition, not the promotion of self, but the imitation of Christ. We learn how fixed we are on that right ambition when we face opposition and contradiction.

**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 9:30-37

How profound the love of Jesus! He is talking about his impending suffering and all the Twelve can think and talk about is the glory they expect to get out of it, and whether someone else might be getting more and therefore too much! Wouldn't you think that at least when he is describing his coming Passion he would get a little attention, just a bit of sympathy? But no! The perversity of the best of us is indeed deep and profound. But the love and compassion of the Savior is a thousand times deeper and more profound! He does not cast them off; he does not cast us off either. Instead he patiently demonstrates his love and bids us once more to be concerned only with receiving it and then imitating it.

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 11:18-20

Jeremiah faithfully followed the Word of the Lord in his preaching of woe to those who abandoned that Word and therefore deserved to perish. His message is an evidence of the love of God as well as an evidence of the love of Jeremiah. He preached out of love for his people and to save them from destruction. But what did he receive? The hatred of those he served, so much so that his lament is the lament of Christ himself. Faithfulness always costs and the cross always stings. Ultimately God's wrath will fall on the obdurate, and he will vindicate his own. When that happens, we too will acknowledge that God has acted justly. But until then, let us persevere in the proclamation of his saving gospel, that some may still hear and by its power be turned and live. How deeply the love of Christ penetrated the heart of Jeremiah is shown by his imitation of that love in serving the undeserving.

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: JAMES 3:13-18

Gentleness and unselfish service are virtues that imitate Christ's own perfect gentleness and unselfish service to us. Selfish ambition and jealousy are from the devil; they not only add to the suffering of our fellow man, but also hinder the proclamation of the gospel. For where those virtues are not, the peace that comes from the gospel is crowded out by disorder and strife. Where those virtues are found among God's people, there the gospel of righteousness from him is sown in peace for the everlasting peace of those who hear and receive it. So let us resist the siren songs of Me first! and It's not fair, the way they treat me and don't appreciate me. Instead let God worry about justice while we worry about serving and then serving yet more. That is what Jesus did all the way to the cross, all the way to hell and back just for us!

*My takeaways:*

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:  
NUMBERS 12:1-15**

Of the many points that could be made from this lesson, the one that fits best with the context of this Sunday is the example of Moses in his imitation of the love of Christ. Moses' ambition is to reflect the love of God even to those who caused him to suffer. He didn't say to those who opposed him and now suffer at the hands of God himself: See what you get? It serves you right! Rather, even when his sister suffers in consequence of her sins against Moses and God, Moses prays for her. How far do we have to go before we get to that kind of love?

*My takeaways:*

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