



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
REFORMATION SUNDAY — 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 46**

**A: The mighty Lord is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

L: God is our refuge and strength,

**G: an ever-present help in trouble.**

L: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give  
way

**G: and the mountains fall into the heart of  
the sea,**

L: though its waters roar and foam

**G: and the mountains quake with their  
surging.**

L: There is a river whose streams make glad the city  
of God,

**G: the holy place where the Most High dwells.**

L: God is within her, she will not fall;

**G: God will help her at break of day.**

L: “Be still, and know that I am God;

**G: I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.”**

**A: The mighty Lord is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out  
your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them  
steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in  
all temptations, defend them against all their  
enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving  
peace; 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: If you continue in my Word, you are truly  
my disciples, and you will know the truth,  
and the truth will make you free.  
(John 8:31, 32 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:

### First Sunday of End Time—Reformation

**Sunday:** At the Festival of the Reformation we give thanks we have been rescued from the false ways of salvation that could only lead us to ruin and doom. We owe God thanks for that rescue accomplished by his grace alone, on account of Christ's merit alone, and through the means of grace alone. At the same time we remember that apart from unqualified commitment to his Word, grace can be lost and with it the saving faith created through the Word in the one and only Christ, our one and only Savior. Therefore let us hear the Word of the Lord! Prompted by his grace let us recommit ourselves to purity of doctrine that comes alone from the Word, and to a life that reflects our devotion to the Savior who gives himself for us and then to us in his pure Word and sacraments.

**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 13:5-11

It should not be a surprise to us that error runs rampant through the world and that both nature and nations are so often in chaos. For that is exactly what our Savior has foretold. Each error, each natural disaster, each country in turmoil should drive us to cling all the more tenaciously to his Word by which alone we are saved in the hour of judgment. For without his pure Word there is only faithless error, fear and torment, and finally a total separation from grace on the Day of Judgment. To retain that Word in all of its truth and purity as the anchor which holds us and the rock on which we find refuge in the storms that threaten destruction, and then to share it, those are the goals of true children of the Reformation. For the very heart and soul of that Word is Christ, the incarnate anchor and rock of our salvation.

*My takeaways:*

### FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 18:1-11

The Jews of Jeremiah's day trusted in outward forms that had become empty formalism. They no longer listened to the Word of the Lord which rebuked them for their sins, and thus no longer lived on the forgiveness pictured in the forms. Separated from the Word, they were separated from grace, so that their lives were ruled by the evil that flows from unbelief. Only the reformation that comes from the Word, that comes by grace, that comes through faith could save them from the doom promised by God; for he will always take his Word seriously, whether we do or not. Like clay, may he re-form us to be vessels of his grace!

*My takeaways:*

### SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 14:6, 7

This standard Reformation Epistle lesson (used at Luther's funeral) extols both the grace of God and the true glory of the preaching ministry. For it is God alone who preserves his Word from the destructive wiles of the devil and wicked men on earth. Grab at it and drag it down though they will, God still holds his Word aloft as a saving breath of the Spirit wafting down on those who hear it. It is the great glory of the preaching ministry that the saving message which ascribes all glory to God is likewise preserved from age to age. Where God receives all the glory for our salvation, we need not dread what men may do, nor even the judgment of God himself. May he by his grace preserve us faithful to his Reformation message and ministry!

*My takeaways:*

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:  
DANIEL 3:16-28**

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

“The God we serve is able to save us from \*the fiery furnace+...But even if he does not, we want you to know, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up!” Luther could have chosen these words for his motto (though there was certainly nothing wrong with the words he did choose from Ps. 118:17). They as well could serve as the motto for the faithful in every generation who would rather die than give up a single word, from the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions. Think of the holy martyrs through the ages, from the time of Cain through the murders of Stalin and Chairman Mao; think of the hundreds of thousands of Lutherans slaughtered or made refugees during the Thirty Years War and more recently by Hitler and then by the communists; think of the pious faithful who came to these shores to escape persecution by the Protestants and even those who called themselves Lutherans in the state churches of Saxony and Prussia. The list goes on and on. So great is the love of God for the truth that he leaves no age without martyrs to it! May we be counted worthy to be their heirs when the time comes for us to join them!

*My takeaways:*