



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
LAST JUDGMENT — 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 90

**A: In every age, O Lord,
you have been our refuge.**

L: Lord, you have been our dwelling place

G: throughout all generations.

L: Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the earth and the world,

**G: from everlasting to everlasting you are
God.**

L: For a thousand years in your sight are like a day
that has just gone by,

G: or like a watch in the night.

L: You have set our iniquities before you,

**G: our secret sins in the light of your
presence.**

L: You turn mortals back to dust.

**G: You sweep them away in the sleep of
death.**

L: The length of our days is seventy years—
or eighty, if we have the strength;

G: yet their span is but trouble and sorrow.

L: Teach us to number our days aright,

G: that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

L: Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing
love,

**G: that we may sing for joy and be glad all our
days.**

**A: In every age, O Lord,
you have been our refuge.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts
and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always
look forward to the end of this present evil age and
to the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us
steadfast in true and living faith and present us at
last holy and blameless before you; through your
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
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: Watch therefore, for you do not know on
what day your Lord is coming.
(Matthew 24:42 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:

Second Sunday of End Time—Last Judgment: The readings for this Sunday set in sharp contrast the attitudes of believers and unbelievers. The attitude of the unbeliever to any talk of judgment by God can only be denial or terror. But the attitude of the child of God is formed by the Word of God. As that Word has created his faith during his life on earth, so it molds his confidence in the face of death and judgment. But the Word of God and the faith it creates will be seen as fully vindicated by death and judgment. Therefore we look forward to the day on which we pass into the courtroom of God to hear the “Not guilty!” verdict which brought us to faith in the first place. There is no better preparation for death and judgment than a firm clinging to that gracious verdict. There is no better life than the one that has that verdict as its center and the motivation for everything in it.

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 5:19-24 [25-30]

Jesus assures us that there is a happy harmony between himself and his Father in everything. Therefore we need not fear that what he has said might be contradicted by his Father. Quite the contrary: the Father loves his incarnate Son so much that everything has already been handed over to him. What a delight and a joy now, in the hour of our death, and on the Day of Judgment to hear his Word! By his Word we are assured of everlasting life. Therefore worship the Son who has won that life for us. What else is there really worth doing? May all of our life be an act of honor to the Son of God, our Judge, our Life, our Savior, our All!

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: MALACHI 4:1-2A

What dread and horror is stored up for those who despise his gracious Word! So much for the notion, already dispelled in the gospel lesson, that it doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you believe something. There is one way of salvation and one way only. The “modern man” who imagines that nothing is true until he believes it or who dreams that God can hardly wait to accommodate himself to human opinions and intentions is in for a very rude awakening. Is our reluctance and lack of zeal for sharing the gospel the fruit of “modern man’s” foolish delusions?

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 9:24-28

The key to our certainty of heaven is in the hands of our Great High Priest. How do we know that death and judgment will be blessed and happy for us? We know that with certainty because it was for our blessedness that Christ came in the first place; it was for our eternal happiness that he has entered into his glory effectively to intercede for us with his blood. He came to win heaven for us, and he succeeded on his mission. How do we know for sure? His Word says so, and God does not lie! He never failed in life; he will not fail us in death; he will prove faithful on the Day of Judgment.

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
MALACHI 4:1-3**

[See the First Lesson comments.] In the judgment all the weariness of the flesh will fall away, and we will leap for joy at the just judgment of God. Those who have rejected his just judgment in this life will not be able to escape in the life to come. Assuming that we did what we could to share the gospel message with them, we will not mourn at the misery they have brought down on themselves by their despising of so great a blessing as that won by the Savior at so great a cost to him.

My takeaways:

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