



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
SAINTS TRIUMPHANT —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 118

**A: This is the day the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad!
This is the day the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad!**

L: The LORD is my strength and my song;

G: he has become my salvation.

L: The LORD'S right hand is lifted high;

**G: the LORD'S right hand has done mighty
things!**

L: I will not die but live,

**G: and will proclaim what the LORD has
done.**

L: I will give you thanks, for you answered me;

G: you have become my salvation.

L: The stone the builders rejected has become the
capstone;

**G: the LORD has done this, and it is
marvelous in our eyes.**

L: This is the day the LORD has made;

G: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**A: This is the day the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad!
This is the day the Lord has made,
let us rejoice and be glad!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; 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: They are before the throne of God and
serve him day and night in his temple.
(Revelation 7:15a)**

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:

Third Sunday of End Time—Saints

Triumphant: As we approach the end of all things and the great Day of Judgment, we want to make sure we have it all straight; the readings for this Sunday help us prepare by their careful description of what is to come, so that we will not fear as we look and long for the day of his appearing. Rather, clinging to his grace in Word and sacraments we strive to live as though who know what to expect at the end of it all.

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 5:25-29

There is so much in the Greek of the gospel lesson! But especially verse 29 merits attention. Notice the two different participles, both translated with “done” in the NIV. There is a distinction often observed in the New Testament between the verbs *poieo* and *prasso*; the latter has more the sense of practice, rather than just do. It's no small difference; to practice evil is to work at it, to relish and cherish it, to want it and not want to be rid of it. That's what we call mortal sin, that is the denial and death of saving faith. If we just leave without comment the translation “those who have done evil,” we may drive a sensitive conscience or memory to despair.

My takeaways:

THE SUPPLEMENTARY GOSPEL:

MARK 13:24-27

God's mighty acts of judgment and grace in New Testament times have Old Testament parallels. But the ultimate acts of judgment in the New Testament are a thousand fold more terrifying, just as the acts of grace are incomparably more beautiful and glorious. What terror the Flood inspired in the perishing! What terror beyond comparison will fall and fall forever on those who perish in the judgment on the Last Day! What grace Noah and his house experienced in their rescue through the water that destroyed the world! What grace beyond compare as the saints rise with the angels through the clouds into eternal bliss and the wedding feast of the Lamb as all of the visible creation collapses around them!

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: DANIEL 12:1-3

The God who protected his elect in this life will certainly not abandon them in death and in the Day of Judgment. Those who lived in such lowliness, following in the footsteps of their Savior in his humiliation, will rise in triumph and live with him forever in glory. The fate of the damned, who do not know or who despise his gracious Word, impels us to labor with all our might to bring them to the righteousness of the gospel. What a glorious special reward of grace awaits all those who labor thus! What a blessed added incentive to all, especially to pastors, to share the saving Word!

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 10:11-18

Notice especially the Greek in verse 14: justification is expressed with a perfect active indicative, sanctification with a present passive participle! Already finished is the work of our salvation through that one great sacrifice of our Great High Priest. Therefore, clinging to his Word and animated by it, we are confident of the verdict on that great day. At the same time, likewise clinging to the Word and animated by it, we are becoming holy in life. Living on his forgiveness, we strive to become in life the saints that we already are by grace.

My takeaways:

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

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

What a day that will be! Therefore encourage one another with the certainty of its coming and the total and utter blessedness of the saints in heaven and the saints on earth who will finally be joined in perfect harmony with the the Lord. No, we will not despair at the death of those who die in Christ. No, we will not live in dread of our own funeral. Rather with confidence in the Savior who promised it, we will drive away such despair and dread with the happy contemplation of the blessedness that awaits us. For he would not die and rise in vain; nor could he ever lie to us. Even so, Come Lord Jesus!

My takeaways: