



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
PENTECOST 22 —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 22**

**A: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

L: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**G: Why are you so far from saving me?**

L: I am a worm and not a man,

**G: scorned by men and despised by the people.**

L: All who see me mock me;

**G: they hurl insults, shaking their heads:**

L: "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.

**G: Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."**

L: My strength is dried up, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;

**G: you lay me in the dust of death.**

L: A band of evil men has encircled me,

**G: they have pierced my hands and my feet.**

L: They divide my garments among them

**G: and cast lots for my clothing.**

**A: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Lord, keep your household, the Church, in continual godliness and set us free from all adversities that, under your protection, we may serve you with true devotion and holy deeds; 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: For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works.  
(Ephesians 2:10a)**

**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:

**Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost:** This Sunday we see again the striking difference between a Christian and a worshiper of the false gods of this world. The difference is in the way the way that the Christian looks at ambition. No one should be more ambitious than we are. This Sunday that ambition and the reasons for it are defined.

**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 10:35-45

Once again the disciples, like us, get it wrong. Jesus has just finished telling them of his coming Passion, and all they can think about is worldly ambition, which one of them should be first. Just like he does when discussing family and wealth, Jesus turns everything upside down from the way that we by nature are inclined to look at things. In fact it is our ambition to be first and have our own way that wrecks family life and perverts the proper uses of wealth. Ah, but in Jesus' way both family life and wealth become great blessings. For the ambition is to serve, not to be served. That service is ever asking: How can I help? instead of When is it my turn? Look who has led by example! The One who alone deserves to be served has served the lowliest of the low. He served me, even me, by coming to find, to rescue, to save me by giving his own life for my ransom.

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 53:10-12

The paying of my ransom was no cheap or easy thing. It could not have been more expensive. That's how great my need; that's how great his love. Now the answer to the question, When is it my turn to be served? You already have been, and by no less than the one whom God both loved and crushed just for you! Only when that work was completely accomplished and your ransom fully paid did he rise and go into the glory that he deserved as the perfect man and now as the only Savior. For now, we follow in his lowly footsteps; we follow him in his humiliation. In due course, in God's own time, we shall rise and share with him the glory which is his alone by right and which he has purchased for us at such a price.

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 4:9-16

Let us be honest with God. Let us strip away the pretense, pride and self-righteousness that we share with the young man in the gospel lesson last Sunday. Let us lay bare before the throne of God the false ambitions we have like those of the disciples in the gospel lesson for today. The sharp sword of God's Word pierces through our hearts and souls so that we can see and know how far we have yet to go and how much we have to confess. Don't be afraid to do it. The Liturgy of Confession at the beginning of the service has already reminded us that there is healing from the high priest and on account of his saving work for us. Leave Confession confident of absolution; leave Confession with the resolve to reorder your ambitions to serve him who one day will give you the rest that he has earned and deserved and reserved for you in heaven.

*My takeaways:*

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:  
2 CHRONICLES 26:16-23**

The alternative to reordering our ambition is to see it grow like a cancer until it destroys us. In Uzziah's case the success that God gave him became a snare. So successful was he in achieving wealth and power that he decided he knew everything better than God did. In his presumption the leprosy on his soul became leprosy also on his body, a disease that made his wealth and power empty and devoid of any satisfaction. There are a lot of people like Uzziah today. Their ambitions and efforts have been blessed by God, so that they imagine that they know it all, including what God should have said in his Word but didn't say. They presume to correct the Bible so that it fits better with their own vain thinking. The mind bent on service in the footsteps of the lowly Savior is content first and foremost with all that God has said.

*My takeaways:*

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

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:  
1 CORINTHIANS 9:7-12, 19-23**

Next to the Savior himself, there is probably no better example of proper ambition than that which Paul gives. If we measure ourselves against the Savior we might only despair. If we measure ourselves against Paul we can at least see one who took Jesus' words about ambition seriously. See what good it did, what a blessing it was and still is for the church! He not only served everyone he could; he served by putting himself in their place, seeing himself as one of them, so that he could apply all the truth of God's Word to their particular situation and circumstance. Notice the last line of the reading: he did it all so that he might also share in the gospel's blessing. Serving with the gospel, the gospel became his anew in every man's circumstance; its depth and its richness he could see and appreciate and apply to himself all the more.

*My takeaways:*