INVOCATION
L: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.
G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 25
A: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.
L: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
G: in you I trust, O my God.
L: Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love,
G: for they are from of old.
L: Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;
G: according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD.
L: Turn to me and be gracious to me,
G: for I am lonely and afflicted.
L: Look upon my affliction and my distress
G: and take away all my sins.
L: Guard my life and rescue me,
G: for I take refuge in you.
A: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
L: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father 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: He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20)

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 in Advent: The judgment is coming, but there will be deliverance for God’s people.

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: LUKE 21:25-36

Jesus has proclaimed to us that he will come again to judge the world. While it is not for us to know “the day or hour,” our Savior would not leave us ignorant of the coming judgment. Eschatological signage abounds for those looking through eyes of faith. Yet, even as we anticipate his coming again to be our judge, we need not cower in fear, for with him comes the deliverance promised of old.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

The Apostle Paul met the righteous branch of David face to face; he saw the promise of “the Lord Our Righteousness” fulfilled. Therefore he exhorts the Thessalonians and all believers - those who know the Christ’s deliverance from sin - to continue living lives of faith and hope in the promise that the Lord Jesus will come again to bring us to eternal life.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:

GENESIS 19:15-17, 23-29

In the midst of God’s spectacular judgment on the wicked peoples of Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot and his daughters experience the Lord’s gracious deliverance from destruction. Let us not hesitate to leave behind the things of this world for the promise of eternal deliverance. Let us not look back on what might have been, but ahead to the promised salvation of the Christ.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 33:14-16

Again and again the Lord had promised blessings for his people, if they would only obey his commands. Yet generation after generation had turned away from the Lord and sought self over Savior. When Jeremiah heard the Word of the Lord he was experiencing the wrath of the Lord carried out on rebellious Judah. To the faithful, come words of promise: Justice will be carried out on the wicked and there will be deliverance. The line of David will continue as a “righteous branch” sprouts. He comes to restore the desolate land and the decimated people. He comes to bring peace and safety. He comes to bring life. Therefore he will be called “the Lord Our Righteousness.”

My takeaways:

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