



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
CHRISTMAS 1 — YEAR C**

INVOCATION

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

G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 111

**A: Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.**

L: Great are the works of the LORD;

**G: they are pondered by all who delight in
them.**

L: Glorious and majestic are his deeds,

G: and his righteousness endures forever.

L: He has caused his wonders to be remembered;

G: the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

L: The works of his hands are faithful and just;

G: all his precepts are trustworthy.

L: He provided redemption for his people;

G: he ordained his covenant forever.

L: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

**G: all who follow his precepts have good
understanding.**

**A: Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through 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: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
(Colossians 3:15a)**

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:

First Sunday after Christmas: In the family of believers, it is our brother Jesus who changed the future for Abraham's descendants. To be about the Father's will meant sharing in our humanity and destroying the power of death.

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 2:41-52

With an emphasis on the two natures of Christ, these words from Luke reveal Jesus' growth "in favor with God and men." Yet, very clearly, Jesus always understood his purpose was to carry out the Father's plan of salvation. Though he willingly he obeyed Mary and Joseph, more striking is his willing obedience to the Father's will.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: 1 SAMUEL 2:18-20, 26

The similarities between the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus are striking: a gracious gift to his mother, the boy Samuel was dedicated to the Lord's service, ministering in the Tabernacle. By grace he would grow "in favor with God and men." By grace he would willingly carry out the "Father's things/business" all the days of his life.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: HEBREWS 2:10-18

With the words of John 1 still ringing in our ears, the writer to the Hebrews lays out the loving purpose of God in Christ Jesus. It is fitting that the Author of Salvation should make his One and Only Son like those he came to save. As our brother, he knows our weaknesses and temptations. Yet, in service to God, he carried out the Father's will. Having overcome death and made atonement for our sins, he now claims us as members of his family.

My takeaways:

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