INVOCATION

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

G: Amen

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 148

A: Forever let us sing
   the goodness of the Lord.

L: Praise the LORD from the heavens,
G: praise him in the heights above.

L: Praise him, all his angels,
G: praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

L: Praise him, sun and moon,
G: praise him, all you shining stars.

L: Praise the LORD from the earth,
G: lightning and hail, stormy winds that do
   his bidding,

L: you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all
   cedars,
G: wild animals and all cattle, small creatures
   and flying birds,

L: kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,
G: young men and maidens, old men and
   children.

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD,
G: for his splendor is above the earth and the
   heavens.
A: Forever let us sing
   the goodness of the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, you have filled us with the new
   light of the Word who became flesh and lived among
   us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do;
   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: All the ends of the earth have seen the
   salvation of our God. (Psalm 98:3b)

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 after Christmas**: Promises kept: we celebrate with joy how God fulfilled them 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: LUKE 1:68-75**

Zechariah had learned to trust God’s promises. After months of silence, he bursts forth to sing of God’s promises kept (note the aorists!) Blessed be the God of Israel who has come to redeem his people. The struggle with sin of spiritual Israel was over. Salvation has come just as the LORD, the God of free and faithful grace, had sworn by his own name. With the joy of salvation and the confidence of promises fulfilled, we fearlessly serve the LORD in righteousness.

My takeaways:

**FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 17:1-7**

The LORD, the God of free and faithful grace, appears to Abram at the age of ninety-nine to again confirm his gracious covenant and promise. This time, the Lord changes his name to Abraham saying, “I have made you a father of many nations.” Notice the qal perfect in verb making this a kept promise in the timelessness of the LORD.

My takeaways:

**SECOND LESSON: GALATIANS 4:4-7**

Thousands of years had passed, generations had come and gone, since the promise made by God in the Garden. But all those years were not wasted, but preparatory. Finally, when everything had been perfectly prepared, God kept the Garden Promise and sent his Son, born of woman. The promise kept has transformed us from slaves to sons and heirs. The surety of his promises kept provides the certainty of our coming inheritance.

My takeaways:
SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
2 SAMUEL 7:8-16

The Lord promises peace to David’s kingdom of Israel and a descendant who will establish his throne for eternity. But this eternal throne named for David will be greater than that from which David ruled God’s people. For this ruler and throne will be established by the LORD.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
COLOSSIANS 1:13-20

God had promised to establish a house and kingdom for David forever. Looking around the Ancient Near East at the beginning of the Christian era, it must certainly have seemed that God’s promised to David had failed. There was no king in Israel; David’s line had been cut off and his kingdom destroyed. But God keeps his promises, no matter how unlikely they may seem. Zechariah sang about the horn in the house of David. In Christ, David’s Son, God kept every promise.

My takeaways:

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