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

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 65
A: The earth is full of the goodness of God,
   the goodness of our God.
L: Praise awaits you, O God,
G: you call forth songs of joy.
L: You care for the land and water it;
G: you soften it with showers and bless its
   crops.
L: The streams of God are filled with water
G: to provide the people with grain.
L: You crown the year with your bounty,
G: and your carts overflow with abundance.
L: The grasslands of the desert overflow;
G: the hills are clothed with gladness.
L: The meadows are covered with flocks
   and the valleys are mantled with grain;
G: they shout for joy and sing.
A: The earth is full of the goodness of God,
   the goodness of our God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
L: Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes
   from you. Inspire us to think those things that are
   true and long for those things that are good, that we
   may always make our petitions according to your
   gracious will; 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: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
Alleluia. If anyone loves me, he will obey my
   teaching. My Father will love him, and we
   will come to him and make our home with
   him. (John 14:23 cf. NIV)

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:

Sixth Sunday of Easter: Love for Christ shows itself in obedience to his teaching and trust in his peace.

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 14:23-29

Jesus continues to prepare the disciples for his visible departure. The new command to love one another also means loving him and his Word. Loving Jesus means obeying his teaching. We do not fear at the thought of this impossible task. The gift of the Spirit comes to bring knowledge and peace. With untroubled hearts, we believe.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 14:8-18

Their first missionary journey continues as Paul and Barnabas flee to Lystra. Filled with the Spirit, Paul and Barnabas heal a man crippled from birth. While the crowd recognizes divine power at work, their misguided notions of divinity lead them to the wrong conclusion. Troubled by what was happening, Paul and Barnabas seize the opportunity to proclaim the true message of peace through the risen Christ.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 21:10-14, 22, 23

As the angel points out the bride of Christ to St. John, can we help but marvel: that’s us! Here is how God sees his Church: as the very bride of Christ, holy and glorious. Like a brilliant jewel the Church built on the prophets and apostles is prepared for an eternity with her loving Lord in the temple of the Lamb and the radiance of his light.

My takeaways:
SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
2 KINGS 6:15-17

Obeying the Word of God had brought Elisha and his servant to the brink of death. The servant of Elisha was gripped in fear when he saw the forces that King of Aram sent to capture his master. In a stunning revelation of divine knowledge, the servant receives spiritual sight. The sight of the vast army of fire brought peace to his fainting heart. God’s message is simple, but profound. Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God!

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
REVELATION 3:14-22

Spiritual apathy has disastrous results. The Laodiceans failed to obey the teaching of Christ. Their lukewarm Christianity was taking them to destruction. But Christ called them to new obedience and new love for him by offering them real wealth, clothes of holiness, and the salve of healing. Hear what the Spirit says and overcome the world even as the risen Lord has overcome it.

My takeaways:

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