



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
EPIPHANY 3 — 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 19

A: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

L: The heavens declare the glory of God;

G: the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

L: Their voice goes out into all the earth,

G: their words to the ends of the world.

L: The law of the LORD is perfect,

G: giving joy to the heart.

L: The commands of the LORD are radiant,

G: giving light to the eyes.

L: They are more precious than gold;

G: they are sweeter than honey.

L: By them is your servant taught;

G: in keeping them there is great reward.

L: May the words of my mouth and the meditation
of my heart

G: be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Redeemer.

A: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; 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: Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching, preaching, and healing every disease. (Matthew 4:23 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:

Third Sunday after the Epiphany: Jesus reveals himself as the Anointed one with the Father's authority to proclaim himself as fulfillment of prophecy. The Word made flesh points to the Word and boldly proclaims, "Fulfillment." This bold proclamation carries joy to the very heart of the body of Christ and emboldens its members to proclaim the same.

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 4:14-21

All that was promised to Adam and Eve, all that was renewed with the Patriarchs, all that was foretold through Isaiah, all that was passed from generation to generation...is fulfilled. It is no longer a future promise to fainting hearts, blind eyes, and bound souls. It is a promise fulfilled as the Anointed One reveals himself to be the Fulfillment. Let there be no doubt, the Messiah has come. (This lesson continues next Sunday with one week building on the next. Consider tying both lessons together in a sermon series. The caution to the preacher is to refrain from bringing too much of next Sunday's lesson into this Sunday's sermon.)

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 61:1-6

Isaiah records for broken hearts and imprisoned souls the Voice of Salvation. The Anointed one proclaims healing and freedom – the making of all things right. No longer will there be sin and sorrow, but restoration and righteousness. How these words must have touched the despondent hearts of the faithful in Israel! How these words touch the hearts of those who have seen the Fulfillment! This is the Year of the Lord's Favor. (For a stronger dose and a deeper appreciation of the sweetness of the gospel in Isaiah, consider reading Isaiah 58-66.)

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON:

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-21, 26, 27

Last Sunday, the believer was brought to appreciate the different gifts the Spirit gives to each believer. This Sunday, the believer is brought to appreciate the unity of the body of Christ. Though different parts, yet each is a part of the one body.

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
NEHEMIAH 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

The wall complete, Nehemiah gathers the people to hear the reading and exposition of the Word of the Lord. Just as the Word had central place in the restoration of Jerusalem, so the Word has central place in the restoration of Spiritual Jerusalem. For the Word reveals the Messiah and brings joy to the sin-weary heart.

My takeaways:

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

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
ACTS 4:23-31**

The Apostles are blessed to see the fulfillment of prophecy: Messianic Psalm 2 foretells of Herod and Pilate conspiring against the Lord's Anointed. Yet it was the will of the Lord that was carried out for the salvation of many souls. It is the message of this promise fulfilled, revealed to the Apostles, that spurs them on to speak this same message with like boldness: This prophecy is fulfilled!

My takeaways: