INVOCATION

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

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 78

A: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
L: O my people, hear my teaching;
G: listen to the words of my mouth.
L: I will utter things from of old,
G: what we have heard and what our fathers have told us.
L: We will not hide them from our children;
G: we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD.
L: The LORD decreed statutes for Jacob
G: and established the law in Israel,
L: so the next generation would know them,
G: and they in turn would tell their children.
L: Then they would put their trust in God
G: and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.
A: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations; 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: The Spirit of the Lord is on me; he has anointed me to preach good news. (Luke 4:18a 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:

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany:** Our human inclination is to listen without faith. This can only lead us to the brow of a cliff and throwing Jesus out of our lives. But the Savior of the Nations comes with his gracious words of redemption and membership in his body. The Word of the Lord is proclaimed through the revelation of his Anointed One. In him faith is rooted, love flourishes, and salvation is known from generation to generation.

**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 4:20-32**

The gracious words of the Anointed One win admiration but not hearts of faith. When confronted by their own unbelief and the inclusion of Gentiles in spiritual Israel, “Joseph’s son” is driven from the synagogue to be thrown from the cliff. Yet the Savior of the nations passes through the angry mob to continue his mission and reveal himself in Capernaum.

**My takeaways:**

**FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 1:4-10**

Child-like Jeremiah is called to wield the powerful Word of the Lord. For all who proclaim it, there is comfort that its impact ought not be judged by the preacher. The reception for the Word of the Lord is in keeping with the Lord’s intent. For some, the Word of the Lord comes to tear down, uproot, and overthrow. For others the Word of the Lord comes to build and plant in what was once a barren wasteland. (This week is the call of Jeremiah. Next week is the call of Isaiah.)

**My takeaways:**

**SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27—13:13**

Paul outlines the next step toward understanding the proper use of spiritual gifts. Though the many members of the body of Christ are blessed with various gifts, yet the heart of its unity is the love of Christ. Love between the member and his Lord, and love between the members themselves.

**My takeaways:**
SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
1 KINGS 17:7-16

The Word of the Lord is carried by the prophet Elijah to the widow at Zarephath. Though not of the chosen House of Israel, yet salvation came to her house through the prophet. Along with Namaan the Syrian, Jesus cites this account to offer proof that the Word of the Lord will go outside Israel when it rejects the Anointed One.

*My takeaways:*

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
ROMANS 10:18—11:6

Paul describes Israel's rejection of the Lord. Surely the Word of the Lord was available. The Anointed One was revealed through prophecy in their midst. Yet he was rejected and despised. And so the Word of the Lord, the revelation of the Anointed One has been made to those not of the covenant people. Still, the Lord has reserved a remnant from among Abraham's children, a remnant chosen by grace.

*My takeaways:*

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