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

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 92
A: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
   as we place our trust in you.
L: How great are your works, O LORD,
G: how profound your thoughts!
L: The senseless man does not know,
G: fools do not understand,
L: that though the wicked
   spring up like grass
G: and all evildoers flourish,
L: they will be forever destroyed.
G: But you, O LORD, are exalted forever.
L: The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
G: they will flourish in the courts of our God.
L: They will still bear fruit in old age,
G: they will stay fresh and green,
L: proclaiming, “The LORD is upright;
G: he is my rock, and there is no wickedness
   in him.”
A: Lord, let your mercy be on us,
   as we place our trust in you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
L: Almighty and eternal God, you govern all things
   in heaven and on earth. In your mercy hear our
   prayers and grant us your peace all the days of our
   life; 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 steadfast love of the Lord never
   ceases; his mercies never come to an end.
   (Lamentations 3:22 RSV)

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:

Eighth Sunday after the Epiphany: Faith produces fruits of love.

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 6:39-49

The blind cannot lead the blind. A hypocrite cannot see the truth. A bad tree cannot produce good fruit. But those who can see lead the blind. Those who are faithful can help a spiritually struggling brother. A good tree produces good fruit. Yes, true faith overflows in an abundance of good works. For the one who hears the Word of the Lord and puts it into practice will be like his teacher, joyfully carrying out the Father’s will.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: JEREMIAH 7:1-7

Jeremiah is once again called on to proclaim the harsh reality for the chosen people: Membership in a church does not necessarily mean membership in the Church. True faith expresses itself in faithful service to God and our neighbor. The people of Judah confused citizenship in the kingdom of Judah with citizenship in the Kingdom of God. They may have possessed the physical temple of the Lord, but their actions did not reflect possession of faith in the Lord himself.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 16:5-9, 13, 14

The on-going readings in 1 Corinthians come to a close with one final string of gospel imperatives. The plans the Lord has for us may take us here and there. Yet the love of Christ remains our constant strength, comfort, and hope as we remain firm in the faith, live the faith, and do everything in love.

My takeaways:
SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:  
GENESIS 6:11-22

The account of Noah illustrates the Lord’s judgment on the wicked and faithfulness to his people. A world of wickedness may have surrounded him, but with the Lord’s promise motivating his heart, “Noah did everything just as God commanded him.”

My takeaways:

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

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:  
1 CORINTHIANS 5:9—6:4

By nature we are so eager to evade spiritual confrontation and desperate to avoid the dreaded phrase, “Who are you to judge me?” Even at the cost of many a soul left to wallow in the muck of deliberate sin, we tend to keep our “opinions” to ourselves. Yet Paul calls on us to live our faith by helping our brothers and sisters to live theirs, even if it comes to excommunication. This, too, is a fruit of love. At the same time, Paul calls on us to reach out to those around us who do not know Christ so that they do not fall under eternal judgment.

My takeaways: