



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
LENT 4 — 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 32

**A: Remember your mercy, O Lord;
Remember your mercy and love.**

L: Blessed is he whose transgressions
are forgiven,

G: whose sins are covered.

L: When I kept silent,
your hand was heavy upon me;

**G: my strength was sapped
as in the heat of summer.**

L: Then I acknowledged my sin to you

G: and did not cover up my iniquity.

L: I said, "I will confess my transgressions
to the LORD,"

G: and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

L: You are my hiding place;

G: you will protect me from trouble.

L: Many are the woes of the wicked,

**G: but the LORD's unfailing love
surrounds those who trust in him.**

**A: Remember your mercy, O Lord;
Remember your mercy and love.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; 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: For God so loved the world that he gave his
one and only Son, that whoever believes in
him shall not perish but have eternal life.
(John 3:16)**

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 in Lent: The repentant sinner rejoices at being found in the loving embrace of the Father's full, free, and "foolish" forgiveness.

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 15:1-3, 11B-32

The greatest comfort for the repentant heart is the full and free forgiveness, the love and welcome of the Father. Even though our sin should separate us from the family of God, he welcomes us back into the family with the full rights sons. To the self-righteous, this seems foolish, even offensive. But for the loving Father this is cause for celebration.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 12:1-6

Five times the LORD, the God of free and faithful grace, is mentioned in this lesson from Isaiah. His fierce anger has turned to comfort and salvation. There is no more fear of divine retribution, but joyful singing and proclamation for he has done glorious things. The Holy One has become our salvation.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

Though it appears foolish to the unbeliever, the glorious message of the cross is revealed to the repentant heart as the power of God for the salvation of souls. Therefore, we preach Christ crucified.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: JUDGES 10:6-16

This preamble to the account of Jephthah is representative of all the cycles of conflict and faith throughout the book of Judges. Once again, Israel has turned from the Lord to idolatry. Once again the Lord has allowed the scourge of a foreign nation to discipline the Israelites in their apostasy. To their desperate pleas and fruits of repentance the Lord responds with rescue. On this Sunday we notice the foolishness of God's grace in saving Israel, and ultimately in saving us. It's foolishness, and thank God it is!

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: JAMES 4:7-10

The heart weighed down by sin returns to the Lord in humble submission. The joy of forgiveness is always preceded by contrition and repentance. How amazing that when we humble ourselves before the Lord, God will lift us up. Look at the Gospel to see how God describes his love for sinners like us. Rejoice! How quickly the Father comes to us with the uplifting assurance of forgiveness in Christ Jesus!

My takeaways:

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