



DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
LENT 5 — 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 73

**A: Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my strong-hold
and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.**

L: I am always with you, O LORD;

G: you hold me by my right hand.

L: You guide me with your counsel,

G: and afterward you will take me into glory.

L: Whom have I in heaven but you?

**G: And earth has nothing I desire besides
you.**

L: My flesh and my heart may fail,

**G: but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.**

**A: Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my strong-hold
and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; 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: The Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom
for many. (Mark 10:45 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:

Fifth Sunday in Lent: How beautiful is our journey to the cross and tomb. We have seen our Savior's battle waged against temptation. We have found confidence in his resolution to carry out the Father's plan of salvation. We have turned to the Lord at his invitation to draw near with repentant hearts. And we have rejoiced in his loving and forgiving embrace. In these final hours before Holy Week, even as we rejoice in the great things God has done for his people throughout history, let us put the ways of the past behind us and continue to strive for that for which Christ has laid hold of us.

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 20:9-19

We find ourselves horrified by the actions of the evil tenants. In self-righteous anger we say with the Jews, "May this never be!" Jesus warns that the self-righteous Pharisees of the ages will be dashed to pieces against him, the Cornerstone. Even so, the owner of the vineyard again and again sends Word to the renters. His desire to reconnect with the wicked tenants is so great that he sends his own Son. Those who receive him with hearts of faith will gratefully bring forth fruit and, along with him, enjoy the Son's inheritance forever.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 43:16-21

The LORD had delivered his people from a life of slavery in Egypt and from impending death at the hand of the pursuing Egyptian army. But even this glorious rescue pales in comparison to the salvation to be worked in the Messiah. This is the Lord's invitation to praise him for the eternal salvation he will bring.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 3:8-14

To Paul all that is earthly gain and glory is rubbish compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus. There is no room for the self-righteous in Christ's kingdom. We want to be found with an alien righteousness. Then we will know Christ's power, and because we have been called, gathered, and enlightened we put the past behind and strive for the eternal prize.

My takeaways:

**SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON:
ISAIAH 43:16-24**

The additional verses from Isaiah 43 provide the lesson a slightly different connection to the Gospel Lesson. The Israelites of old foolishly clung to the ceremonial law with empty formalism. Like Pharisees of the past and present, they look to deeds rather than Christ and the gracious salvation he brings.

My takeaways:

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

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON:
ROMANS 11:11-21**

Paul speaks particularly to those who have been *grafted* into the olive tree. In apostasy, Israel chose self-righteousness and idolatry, rejecting the LORD's covenant and his Messiah. As such they were broken off. Here we find that we live in the confidence of a two-fold knowledge: 1) We are grafted into the nourishing tree by grace; 2) We remain in the tree by faith.

My takeaways: