



**DAILY BREAD
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS
EASTER 2—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 16

**A: I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.**

L: Keep me safe, O God,

G: for in you I take refuge.

L: I said to the LORD, “You are my Lord;

G: apart from you I have no good thing.”

L: I have set the LORD always before me.

**G: Because he is at my right hand, I will not
be shaken.**

L: My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

G: My body also will rest secure,

L: because you will not abandon me to the grave,

G: nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

L: You have made known to me the path of life;

G: You will fill me with joy in your presence.

**A: I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by your Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father 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: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have believed. Alleluia. (John
20:29b)**

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:

Second Sunday of Easter: Final preparation to be the risen Christ's witnesses begins with sight. The apostles were blessed with visibly seeing the risen Lord. Overcoming their doubts by the power of the Spirit, they would boldly proclaim the new life to be found in the Living One. Blessed to see through eyes of faith, the vision of the First and the Last fills our hearts with this confidence: "Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again." (CW 406)

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: JOHN 20:19-31

With repeated assurances of peace the gathered disciples are overjoyed to behold the risen Christ with their own eyes. Armed with the Ministry of the Keys, Jesus commissions them to proclaim their joy and open the kingdom of heaven to lost sinners. The visible and physical proofs demanded by Thomas anticipate future doubters of the Son of Man's divinity. In his grace we behold our risen Lord through Word and sacrament. How blessed by the Spirit are we: though we have not visibly seen, yet we see our Lord and God through eyes of faith.

My takeaways:

FIRST LESSON: ACTS 5:12, 17-32

This lesson begins a series from the Book of Acts that shows the apostles with markedly different character than the disciples in the upper room. These are not the same timid disciples who often questioned their rabbi out of lack of understanding or cowered behind locked doors out of fear. Now, even in the face of persecution, the apostles boldly proclaimed the Good News of new life. Such is the power and joy of the risen Christ in the lives of his followers.

My takeaways:

SECOND LESSON: REVELATION 1:4-18

John's vision exceeds our imagination. Yet the revelation of Jesus to St. John is for us a vision of promise and assurance. The brilliant vision of the all-glorious Living One brought John to his knees in abject fear. Yet the gentle hand of the First and Last and the inspiring voice of rushing waters allays fears and emboldens hearts. Once dead, now alive forever and ever, the Son of Man triumphantly holds the keys to death and Hades.

This Sunday marks the beginning of a series of Lessons from Revelation. Each directs us to lift our eyes heavenward to behold with John the eternal glory secured by our risen Lord. These lessons conclude by encouraging us to keep gazing expectantly...for he will come again.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 15:1-6

Fresh from the battle against the kings of the East, Abram has been blessed with full assurance that the Lord is his shield. Yet Abram longs to know the details of how the Lord is his great reward. At the invitation to view the celestial beauty of the Lord's creation, Abram is assured the Lord's great reward would not only be a son but a nation. In striking contrast to doubting Thomas, Abraham believed the Word of the Lord and it was credited to him as righteousness.

My takeaways:

SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 2 PETER 1:16-21

Peter's testimony was certain because he was eyewitness. He had seen the glory of God in Christ on the mountain. He had seen the glory of life from death in the upper room. What did that mean? The New Testament church had a blessing: the word of the prophets made more certain by eyewitness of glory and resurrection. This word made more certain shines like light in the darkness of this world, illuminating our hearts and lives until the Morning Star returns.

My takeaways:

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