

Wednesday April 1, 2020

Opening

Selected verses from Psalm 69

Leader: I will praise God's name in song

Family: **And glorify him with thanksgiving.**

The poor will see and be glad—

You who seek God, may your hearts live!

The LORD hears the needy

And does not despise his captive people. Amen.

Bible Reading - Mark 15:20-31

²⁰ When they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothing on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹ A certain man, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), was passing by on his way in from the country. They forced him to carry Jesus' cross. ²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means, "The place of a skull." ²³ They tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ They crucified him. And they divided his garments, casting lots for them to decide what each of them would take.

²⁵ Now it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶ The superscription stating the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ They also crucified two criminals with him, one on his right and one on his left.

²⁹ Those who passed by ridiculed him, shaking their heads and saying, "Ha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself! Come down from the cross!"

³¹ In the same way, the chief priests along with the experts in the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said. "He cannot save himself."

Questions for Discussion

Take whatever time is necessary or possible to discuss these questions. Discussion does not have to be lengthy.

For the kids: *When are we like Simon and carrying the cross of Jesus? (see Matt. 16:24 for help)*

For the grownups: *When are we like the chief priests and the experts in the law?*

Prayer

Luther's Morning Prayer:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

or

Luther's Evening Prayer:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

The head of the household may lead other prayers and petitions. The members of the family may also take turns with their own prayers and petitions. The head of the household closes the prayer in Jesus' name.

Blessing

Leader: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

Amen.

Hymn

Read or sing the hymn verse as a family.

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
(CW 120)**

A recording of this hymn can be found on [YouTube](#).

Catechism Study

Optional: Briefly discuss and apply this portion of Luther's Small Catechism.

The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.