

*Saturday April 18, 2020*

## Opening

*Selected verses from Psalm 114*

Leader: When Israel came out of Egypt

**Family: And the house of Jacob from a people with a strange language**

The sea saw and fled.

**The Jordan turned back.**

Tremble in the presence of the Lord, O earth.

**Tremble in the presence of the God of Jacob.**

He turned the rock into a pool of water.

**He turned flint into springs of water. Amen.**

## Bible Reading - Isaiah 44:21-28

<sup>21</sup> “Remember these things, Jacob,  
for you, Israel, are my servant.

I have made you, you are my servant;  
Israel, I will not forget you.

<sup>22</sup> I have swept away your offenses like a cloud,  
your sins like the morning mist.

Return to me,  
for I have redeemed you.”

<sup>23</sup> Sing for joy, you heavens, for the Lord has done this;  
shout aloud, you earth beneath.

Burst into song, you mountains,  
you forests and all your trees,  
for the Lord has redeemed Jacob,  
he displays his glory in Israel.

<sup>24</sup> “This is what the Lord says—  
your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb:

I am the Lord,  
the Maker of all things,  
who stretches out the heavens,  
who spreads out the earth by myself,

<sup>25</sup> who foils the signs of false prophets  
and makes fools of diviners,  
who overthrows the learning of the wise  
and turns it into nonsense,

<sup>26</sup> who carries out the words of his servants  
and fulfills the predictions of his messengers,  
who says of Jerusalem, 'It shall be inhabited,'  
of the towns of Judah, 'They shall be rebuilt,'  
and of their ruins, 'I will restore them,'  
<sup>27</sup> who says to the watery deep, 'Be dry,  
and I will dry up your streams,'  
<sup>28</sup> who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd  
and will accomplish all that I please;  
he will say of Jerusalem, "Let it be rebuilt,"  
and of the temple, "Let its foundations be laid." '

## Questions for Discussion

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

**For the kids:** *How does it make you feel to know that Jesus has washed away all your sins?*

**For the grownups:** *God promises the rebuilding and re-inhabitation of Jerusalem under Cyrus. (We read about this exciting time in our Bible class on Nehemiah earlier this year.) What comfort would this have brought the people in Isaiah's time? (This was even before the Jews were carried into captivity in Babylon.) What comfort does it bring for you?*

## 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.*

***I am content! My Jesus lives again,  
In whom my heart is pleased.  
He has fulfilled the law of God for me;  
God's wrath he has appeased.  
Since he in death could perish never,  
I also shall not die forever.  
I am content! I am content!  
(CW 158)***

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

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## Catechism Study

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

### **THE USE OF THE KEYS AND CONFESSION**

#### **The Public Use Of The Keys**

*Second: How does a Christian congregation use the Keys?*

A Christian congregation with its called servant of Christ uses the keys in accordance with Christ's command by forgiving those who repent of their sin and are willing to amend, and by excluding from the congregation those who are plainly impenitent that they may repent. I believe that when this is done, it is as valid and certain in heaven also, as if Christ, our dear Lord, dealt with us himself.

*Where is this written?*

Jesus says in Matthew, chapter 18, "Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."