

Monday April 27, 2020

Opening

Selected verses from Psalm 81

(God longs for his people to listen to him.)

Leader: If only my people would listen to me,

Family: If only Israel would walk in my ways,

I would subdue their enemies quickly.

I would turn my hand against their foes.

Those who hate the LORD would cower before him,

And their time of punishment would last forever.

But he would feed Israel with the best wheat.

With honey from the rock I would satisfy you. Amen.

Bible Reading - John 5:1-18

Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. ² Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. ³ Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. ⁴ ⁵ One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “**Do you want to get well?**”

⁷ “Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

⁸ Then Jesus said to him, “**Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.**” ⁹ At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, ¹⁰ and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”

¹¹ But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘**Pick up your mat and walk.**’”

¹² So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?”

¹³ The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

¹⁴ Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “**See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.**” ¹⁵ The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Jesus who had made him well.

¹⁶ So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. ¹⁷ In his defense Jesus said to them, “**My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.**” ¹⁸ For this reason they tried all the

more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Questions for Discussion

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

For the kids: What city did Jesus go to?

For the grownups: Why is it important to our faith that Jesus, God's Son, is equal to God the Father?

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.

**Lord Jesus Christ, be present now;
Our hearts in true devotion bow.
Your Spirit send with grace divine,**

And let your truth within us shine.

***Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise throughout eternity!wor
(CW 230 vv1,4)***

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

**Note: The words in the video differ slightly from the words in the hymnal.*

Catechism Study

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Power of Holy Communion

Third: How can eating and drinking do such great things?

It is certainly not the eating and drinking that does such things, but the words "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins."

These words are the main thing in the sacrament, along with the eating and drinking. And whoever believes these words has what they plainly say, the forgiveness of sins.