

Wednesday April 29, 2020

Opening

Selected verses from Psalm 19

Leader: The heavens tell about the glory of God.

Family: The expanse of the sky proclaims the work of his hands.

Their voice goes out into all the earth,

And their word reaches the end of the world.

The just decrees of the LORD are truth.

They are altogether righteous.

Yes, by them your servant is warned.

In keeping them there is great reward.

May the speech from my mouth and the thoughts in my heart

Be pleasing to you, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen.

Bible Reading - Jeremiah 3:14-19

¹⁴ Return, unfaithful people, declares the Lord, because I am your husband. I will take you—one from a city, two from a family—and bring you to Zion. ¹⁵ Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

¹⁶ In those days, when you have been fruitful and increased in number in the land, declares the Lord, men will no longer say, “The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord.” It will not enter their minds. It will not be remembered. It will not be missed, nor will another one be made. ¹⁷ Then they will call Jerusalem “The Throne of the Lord.” All nations will gather there in Jerusalem for the sake of the name of the Lord. No longer will they stubbornly follow their own evil hearts.

¹⁸ In those days the house of Judah will join with the house of Israel, and together they will come from a land in the north to the land I gave your fathers as an inheritance.

¹⁹ I myself said that I would like to treat you like sons
and give you a desirable land,
the most splendid inheritance among the entire army of nations.
I thought you would call me Father
and would no longer turn away from me.

Questions for Discussion

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

For the kids: In verse 15, God mentions giving the people shepherds after his own heart. Who are the shepherds God has given us in our congregation that lead us to the forgiveness we find in Jesus?

For the grownups: We are unfaithful to God each time we sin. When we see our unfaithfulness and turn back to Jesus, will he take us back? (read John 6:37) As we sin more and more, will there be more forgiveness waiting for us from the Lord? (read Romans 5:20)

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.

**The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
(CW 360)**

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 First Article of the Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.