

Tuesday April 7, 2020

## Opening

*Selected verses from Psalm 73*

Leader: Surely God is good to Israel,

Family: **To the pure in heart.**

But as for me, my feet almost slipped out from under me.

**I even envied the arrogant when I observed the peace of the wicked.**

Have I really kept my heart pure for nothing?

**Have I kept my hands clean in vain?**

When I tried to understand this, it was very troubling to me,

**Until I went to the sanctuary of God. Then I understood their end.**

As for me, God's nearness is good for me.

**I have made the Lord God my refuge. Amen.**

## Bible Reading - John 18:28-40

<sup>28</sup> Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup> So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

<sup>30</sup> "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

<sup>31</sup> Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

"But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected. <sup>32</sup> This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

<sup>33</sup> Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

<sup>34</sup> "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

<sup>35</sup> "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

<sup>36</sup> Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

<sup>37</sup> "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

<sup>38</sup> "What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. <sup>39</sup> But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?"

<sup>40</sup> They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

## Questions for Discussion

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

**For the kids:** *Why did the Jews want Pilate to be judge of Jesus's guilt?*

**For the grownups:** *What can we learn from Jesus about facing stress and uncertainty in our lives?*

## 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.*

**He stood before the court  
On trial instead of us;  
He met its pow'r to hurt,**

**Condemned to face the cross–  
Our King, accused of treachery;  
Our God, abused for blasphemy!  
(CW 115)**

*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 Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

*What does this mean?*

God surely gives daily bread without our asking, even to all the wicked, but we pray in this petition that he would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

*What, then, is meant by daily bread?*

Daily bread includes everything that we need for our bodily welfare, such as food and drink, clothing and shoes, house and home, land and cattle, money and goods, a godly spouse, godly children, godly workers, godly and faithful leaders, good government, good weather, peace and order, health, a good name, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.