

Wednesday April 8, 2020

Opening

Selected verses from Psalm 51

Leader: Be gracious to me, God,

Family: According to your mercy.

Scrub me clean from my guilt.

Purify me from my sin.

Against you, you only, have I sinned.

And I have done this evil in your eyes.

Create in me a pure heart, O God.

Renew an unwavering spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation. Amen.

Bible Reading - Jeremiah 11:18-23*

¹⁸ The Lord revealed their plot to me so I became aware of it. He showed me what they were doing. ¹⁹ I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I had not realized that they had plotted against me. They were saying:

“Let us destroy the tree along with its fruit.

Let us cut him off from the land of the living,

so that his name will no longer be remembered.”

²⁰ But, Lord of Armies, you judge righteously.

You test the heart and mind.

Let me see your vengeance on them,

for I have presented my case to you.

²¹ Therefore this is what the Lord says concerning the men of Anathoth who are seeking your life and saying, “Do not prophesy in the name of the Lord, or you will die by our hands.” ²² This is what the Lord of Armies says. I will certainly punish them.

Their young men will die by the sword. Their sons and daughters will die by famine,

²³ and none of them will be left. I will bring disaster on the men of Anathoth, the year of their punishment.

**Today's Bible reading is taken from the Evangelical Heritage Version translation.*

Questions for Discussion

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

For the kids: Read verse 19. – Jeremiah had been bringing words of the Lord’s judgement against the people of Israel because of their sin. What did the people want to do to Jeremiah? Who can help us when someone isn’t nice to us because we’re spreading the word of God?

For the grownups: How does verse 19 foreshadow Jesus before Pilate? (Read John 19:8, 9)

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.

**Behold the Lamb of God
For Guilty Sinners slain;
Let it not be in vain
That you have died!
You for my Savior let me take;
My only refuge let me make
Your pierced side.
Or gaze upon the skies.**

(CW 101)

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

**Note that the words to the hymn in the video differ slightly from the hymnal's version.*

Catechism Study

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

The Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins or because of them deny our prayers; for we are worthy of none of the things for which we ask, neither have we deserved them, but we ask that he would give them all to us by grace; for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment.

So we too will forgive from the heart and gladly do good to those who sin against us.