

Friday August 28, 2020

Opening

Selected verses from Psalm 51

Leader: Be gracious to me, god, according to your mercy.

Family: **Erase my acts of rebellion according to the greatness of your compassion.**

Scrub me clean from my guilt.

Purify me from my sin.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation.

Sustain me with a willing spirit. Amen.

Bible Reading - Philippians 4:1-7

4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

² I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

³ Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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's wrong with worry?*

For the grownups: *How is "rejoice in the Lord" very different from "just try to be happy?"*

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.

***In you is gladness Amid all sadness,
Jesus, Sunshine of my heart.
By you are given The gifts of heaven;
You the true Redeemer are.
Our souls are waking; Our bonds are breaking.
Who trusts you surely Has built securely
And stands forever. Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining To see your shining,
Dying or living To you are clinging
Now and forever. Alleluia!***

***If he is ours, We fear no powers,
Not of earth or sin or death.
He sees and blesses In worst distresses;
He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story Tell of his glory
With hearts and voices; All heav'n rejoices
In him forever. Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, Win over sadness,
Love him and praise him And still shall raise him
Glad hymns forever. Alleluia!***

(346:1,2)

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

Large Catechism Study

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

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT (Continued)

Next, it extends very much further, if we are to apply it to spiritual jurisdiction or administration; here it is a common occurrence that everyone bears false witness against his neighbor. For wherever there are godly preachers and Christians, they must bear the sentence before the world that they are called heretics, apostates, yea, seditious and desperately wicked miscreants. Besides, the Word of God must suffer in the most shameful and malicious manner, being persecuted, blasphemed, contradicted, perverted, and falsely cited and interpreted. But let this pass; for it is the way of the blind world that she condemns and persecutes the truth and the children of God, and yet esteems it no sin.