

*Saturday August 29, 2020*

## Opening

*Selected verses from Psalm 32*

*Leader:* How blessed is the person whose rebellion is forgiven,

*Family:* **Whose sin is covered.**

How blessed is the person

**Whose guilt the LORD does not charge against him.**

Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

**But mercy will surround those who trust in the LORD. Alleluia!**

## Bible Reading - Philippians 4:8-20

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

<sup>10</sup> I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

<sup>14</sup> Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. <sup>15</sup> Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; <sup>16</sup> for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. <sup>17</sup> Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. <sup>18</sup> I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

<sup>20</sup> To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## Questions for Discussion

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

**For the kids:** *Make a list of “pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and praiseworthy” things to think about.?*

**For the grownups:** *What is the secret of contentment?*

## 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.*

***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,  
the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him,  
for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear Now to his temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!***

***Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things  
is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle,  
uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen All that is needful has been  
Sent by his gracious ordaining?  
(234:1,2)***

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

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## Large Catechism Study

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

### **THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT (Continued)**

In the third place, what concerns us all, this commandment forbids all sins of the tongue whereby we may injure or approach too closely to our neighbor. For to bear false witness is nothing else than a work of the tongue. Now, whatever is done with the tongue against a fellow-man God would have prohibited, whether it be false preachers with their doctrine and blasphemy, false judges and witnesses with their verdict, or outside of court by lying and evil-speaking. Here belongs particularly the detestable, shameful vice of speaking behind a person's back and slandering, to which the devil spurs us on, and of which there would be much to be said. For it is a common evil plague that everyone prefers hearing evil to hearing good of his neighbor; and although we ourselves are so bad that we cannot suffer that any one should say anything bad about us, but everyone would much rather that all the world should speak of him in terms of gold, yet we cannot bear that the best is spoken about others.