

**Tuesday July 21, 2020**

## Opening

*Selected verses from Psalm 17*

**Leader:** Indeed, I call to you because you will answer me, O God.

**Family:** **Turn your ear toward me. Hear what I say.**

Perform wonders through your mercy.

**By your right hand save those who seek refuge.**

Indeed, in righteousness I will view your face.

**When I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness. Amen.**

## Bible Reading - 1 Samuel 28:3-25

<sup>3</sup> Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in his own town of Ramah. Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land.

<sup>4</sup> The Philistines assembled and came and set up camp at Shunem, while Saul gathered all Israel and set up camp at Gilboa. <sup>5</sup> When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart. <sup>6</sup> He inquired of the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets. <sup>7</sup> Saul then said to his attendants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her."

"There is one in Endor," they said.

<sup>8</sup> So Saul disguised himself, putting on other clothes, and at night he and two men went to the woman. "Consult a spirit for me," he said, "and bring up for me the one I name."

<sup>9</sup> But the woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done. He has cut off the mediums and spiritists from the land. Why have you set a trap for my life to bring about my death?"

<sup>10</sup> Saul swore to her by the Lord, "As surely as the Lord lives, you will not be punished for this."

<sup>11</sup> Then the woman asked, "Whom shall I bring up for you?"

"Bring up Samuel," he said.

<sup>12</sup> When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out at the top of her voice and said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!"

<sup>13</sup> The king said to her, "Don't be afraid. What do you see?"

The woman said, "I see a ghostly figure coming up out of the earth."

<sup>14</sup> "What does he look like?" he asked.

"An old man wearing a robe is coming up," she said.

Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.

<sup>15</sup> Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?"

“I am in great distress,” Saul said. “The Philistines are fighting against me, and God has departed from me. He no longer answers me, either by prophets or by dreams. So I have called on you to tell me what to do.”

<sup>16</sup> Samuel said, “Why do you consult me, now that the Lord has departed from you and become your enemy? <sup>17</sup> The Lord has done what he predicted through me. The Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hands and given it to one of your neighbors—to David. <sup>18</sup> Because you did not obey the Lord or carry out his fierce wrath against the Amalekites, the Lord has done this to you today. <sup>19</sup> The Lord will deliver both Israel and you into the hands of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will also give the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines.”

<sup>20</sup> Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, filled with fear because of Samuel’s words. His strength was gone, for he had eaten nothing all that day and all that night.

<sup>21</sup> When the woman came to Saul and saw that he was greatly shaken, she said, “Look, your servant has obeyed you. I took my life in my hands and did what you told me to do. <sup>22</sup> Now please listen to your servant and let me give you some food so you may eat and have the strength to go on your way.”

<sup>23</sup> He refused and said, “I will not eat.”

But his men joined the woman in urging him, and he listened to them. He got up from the ground and sat on the couch.

<sup>24</sup> The woman had a fattened calf at the house, which she butchered at once. She took some flour, kneaded it and baked bread without yeast. <sup>25</sup> Then she set it before Saul and his men, and they ate. That same night they got up and left.

## 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 “spooky” evil deed did King Saul resort to in order to find out the future?

**For the grownups:** How does someone get to the point like King Saul did when the Lord has withdrawn from them?

## 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.*

***O God, forsake me not! Your gracious presence lend me;  
Lord, lead your helpless child; Your Holy Spirit send me  
That I my course may run. Oh, be my light, my lot,  
My staff, my rock, my shield – O God, forsake me not!***

***O God, forsake me not! Take not your Spirit from me;  
Do not permit the might Of sin to overcome me.  
Increase my feeble faith, Which you alone have wrought.  
Oh, be my strength and pow'r – O God, forsake me not!  
(CW 424:1,2)***

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

*\*Note that the words in the video differ slightly from the hymnal.*

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## Large Catechism Study

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

### **THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT (Continued)**

This we ought to practice and inculcate, and we would have our hands full doing good works. But this would not be preaching for monks; it would greatly detract from the religious estate, and infringe upon the sanctity of Carthusians, and would even be

regarded as forbidding good works and clearing the convents. For in this wise the ordinary state of Christians would be considered just as worthy, and even worthier, and everybody would see how they mock and delude the world with a false, hypocritical show of holiness, because they have given this and other commandments to the winds, and have esteemed them unnecessary, as though they were not commandments, but mere counsels; and have at the same time shamelessly proclaimed and boasted their hypocritical estate and works as the most perfect life, in order that they might lead a pleasant, easy life, without the cross and without patience, for which reason, too, they have resorted to the cloisters, so that they might not be obliged to suffer any wrong from any one or to do him any good. But know now that these are the true, holy, and godly works, in which, with all the angels, He rejoices, in comparison with which all human holiness is but stench and filth, and, besides, deserves nothing but wrath and damnation.