

*Saturday July 4, 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,

**In whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

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

Rejoice in the Lord and celebrate, all you righteous,

**And shout joyfully, all you upright in heart. Alleluia!**

## Bible Reading - 1 Samuel 8:1-22

**8** When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel's leaders. <sup>2</sup> The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. <sup>3</sup> But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.

<sup>4</sup> So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. <sup>5</sup> They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

<sup>6</sup> But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. <sup>7</sup> And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. <sup>8</sup> As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. <sup>9</sup> Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights."

<sup>10</sup> Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. <sup>11</sup> He said, "This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. <sup>12</sup> Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. <sup>13</sup> He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. <sup>14</sup> He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. <sup>15</sup> He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. <sup>16</sup> Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. <sup>17</sup> He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves.

<sup>18</sup> When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day.”

<sup>19</sup> But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. <sup>20</sup> Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.”

<sup>21</sup> When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the Lord. <sup>22</sup> The Lord answered, “Listen to them and give them a king.”

Then Samuel said to the Israelites, “Everyone go back to your own town.”

## 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 did the people of Israel want? How did God answer them?*

**For the grownups:** *The people’s desire for a king showed more spiritual immaturity. How did God handle their request? How does God deal with us when we insist on having things that ultimately aren’t good for us?*

## 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.*

**Christ, by heav'nly hosts adored,  
Gracious, mighty, sov'reign Lord,  
God of nations, King of kings,  
Head of all created things,  
By the Church with joy confessed,  
God o'er all, forever blest --  
Pleading, at your throne we stand:  
Save your people, bless our land.  
(CW 617)**

*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 FOURTH COMMANDMENT (Continued)**

Whence come so many knaves that must daily be hanged, beheaded, broken upon the wheel, but from disobedience [to parents], because they will not submit to discipline in kindness, so that, by the punishment of God, they bring it about that we behold their misfortune and grief? For it seldom happens that such perverse people die a natural or timely death.

But the godly and obedient have this blessing, that they live long in pleasant quietness, and see their children's children (as said above) to the third and fourth generation.

Thus experience also teaches, that where there are honorable, old families who fare well and have many children, they owe their origin to the fact, to be sure, that some of them were brought up well and were regardful of their parents. On the other hand, it is written of the wicked, Ps. 109:13: Let his posterity be cut off; and in the generation following let their name be blotted out. Therefore heed well how great a thing in God's sight obedience is, since He so highly esteems it, is so highly pleased with it, and

rewards it so richly, and besides enforces punishment so rigorously on those who act contrariwise.

All this I say that it may be well impressed upon the young. For no one believes how necessary this commandment is, although it has not been esteemed and taught hitherto under the papacy. These are simple and easy words, and everybody thinks he knew them afore; therefore men pass them lightly by, are gaping after other matters, and do not see and believe that God is so greatly offended if they be disregarded, nor that one does a work so well pleasing and precious if he follows them.