

Wednesday July 8, 2020

## Opening

*Selected verses from Psalm 16*

**Leader:** Guard me, O God,

**Family:** **For I take refuge in you.**

I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord.

**I have no good apart from you."**

LORD, you are the cup that has been given to me.

**You have secured an allotment for me.**

You have made known to me the path of life,

**Fullness of joy in your presence, pleasures at your right hand forever.**

**Alleluia!**

## Bible Reading - 1 Samuel 12:1-25

**12** Samuel said to all Israel, "I have listened to everything you said to me and have set a king over you. <sup>2</sup> Now you have a king as your leader. As for me, I am old and gray, and my sons are here with you. I have been your leader from my youth until this day. <sup>3</sup> Here I stand. Testify against me in the presence of the Lord and his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe to make me shut my eyes? If I have done any of these things, I will make it right."

<sup>4</sup> "You have not cheated or oppressed us," they replied. "You have not taken anything from anyone's hand."

<sup>5</sup> Samuel said to them, "The Lord is witness against you, and also his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand."

"He is witness," they said.

<sup>6</sup> Then Samuel said to the people, "It is the Lord who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your ancestors up out of Egypt. <sup>7</sup> Now then, stand here, because I am going to confront you with evidence before the Lord as to all the righteous acts performed by the Lord for you and your ancestors.

<sup>8</sup> "After Jacob entered Egypt, they cried to the Lord for help, and the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your ancestors out of Egypt and settled them in this place.

<sup>9</sup> "But they forgot the Lord their God; so he sold them into the hand of Sisera, the commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hands of the Philistines and the king of Moab, who fought against them. <sup>10</sup> They cried out to the Lord and said, 'We have sinned; we have forsaken the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths. But now deliver us from the hands of our enemies, and we will serve you.' <sup>11</sup> Then the Lord sent

Jerub-Baal, Barak, Jephthah and Samuel, and he delivered you from the hands of your enemies all around you, so that you lived in safety.

<sup>12</sup> “But when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites was moving against you, you said to me, ‘No, we want a king to rule over us’—even though the Lord your God was your king. <sup>13</sup> Now here is the king you have chosen, the one you asked for; see, the Lord has set a king over you. <sup>14</sup> If you fear the Lord and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the Lord your God—good! <sup>15</sup> But if you do not obey the Lord, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your ancestors.

<sup>16</sup> “Now then, stand still and see this great thing the Lord is about to do before your eyes! <sup>17</sup> Is it not wheat harvest now? I will call on the Lord to send thunder and rain. And you will realize what an evil thing you did in the eyes of the Lord when you asked for a king.”

<sup>18</sup> Then Samuel called on the Lord, and that same day the Lord sent thunder and rain. So all the people stood in awe of the Lord and of Samuel.

<sup>19</sup> The people all said to Samuel, “Pray to the Lord your God for your servants so that we will not die, for we have added to all our other sins the evil of asking for a king.”

<sup>20</sup> “Do not be afraid,” Samuel replied. “You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. <sup>21</sup> Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless. <sup>22</sup> For the sake of his great name the Lord will not reject his people, because the Lord was pleased to make you his own. <sup>23</sup> As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. <sup>24</sup> But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. <sup>25</sup> Yet if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will perish.”

## Questions for Discussion

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

***For the kids:*** How did God answer Samuel’s prayer?

***For the grownups:*** Some have said that there is no gospel in the Old Testament, and that God acts only in judgment and punishment throughout the Old Testament. How can this section of scripture prove that idea wrong?

## 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.*

**Lord, we confess our num'rous faults,  
How great our guilt has been,  
How vain and foolish all our thoughts,  
How deeply stained with sin.**

**'Tis from the mercy of our God  
That all our hopes begin;  
'Tis by the water and the blood  
Our souls are saved from sin.  
(CW 398:1,4)**

*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 FOURTH COMMANDMENT (Continued)**

He, now, who is obedient here, is willing and ready to serve, and cheerfully does all that pertains to honor, knows that he is pleasing God and that he will receive joy and happiness for his reward. If he will not do it in love, but despises and resists [authority] or rebels, let him also know, on the other hand, that he shall have no favor nor blessing, and where he thinks to gain a florin thereby, he will elsewhere lose ten times as much, or become a victim to the hangman, perish by war, pestilence, and famine, or experience no good in his children, and be obliged to suffer injury, injustice, and violence at the hands of his servants, neighbors, or strangers and tyrants; so that what we seek and deserve is paid back and comes home to us.

If we would ever suffer ourselves to be persuaded that such works are pleasing to God and have so rich a reward, we would be established in altogether abundant possessions and have what our heart desires. But because the word and command of God are so lightly esteemed, as though some babbler had spoken it, let us see whether you are the man to oppose Him. How difficult, do you think, it will be for Him to recompense you! Therefore you would certainly live much better with the divine favor, peace, and happiness than with His displeasure and misfortune. Why, think you, is the world now so full of unfaithfulness, disgrace, calamity, and murder, but because everyone desires to be his own master and free from the emperor, to care nothing for any one, and do what pleases him? Therefore God punishes one knave by another, so that, when you defraud and despise your master, another comes and deals in like manner with you, yea, in your household you must suffer ten times more from wife, children, or servants.