

*Friday June 19, 2020*

## Opening

*Selected verses from Psalm 39*

*Leader:* I said, “I will guard my ways

***Family:* So that I do not sin with my tongue.**

I will keep a muzzle on my mouth

**As long as the wicked are confronting me.”**

But now what do I wait for, Lord?

**My hope is in you.**

Save me from all my rebellious acts.

**Do not let fools scorn me.**

Hear my prayer, O LORD.

**Listen to my cry. Amen.**

## Bible Reading - Judges 2:1-23

**2** The angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, “I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land I swore to give to your ancestors. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you, <sup>2</sup> and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.’ Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this? <sup>3</sup> And I have also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; they will become traps for you, and their gods will become snares to you.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> When the angel of the Lord had spoken these things to all the Israelites, the people wept aloud, <sup>5</sup> and they called that place Bokim. There they offered sacrifices to the Lord.

<sup>6</sup> After Joshua had dismissed the Israelites, they went to take possession of the land, each to their own inheritance. <sup>7</sup> The people served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the Lord had done for Israel.

<sup>8</sup> Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten. <sup>9</sup> And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

<sup>10</sup> After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. <sup>11</sup> Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. <sup>12</sup> They forsook the Lord, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They aroused the Lord’s anger <sup>13</sup> because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. <sup>14</sup> In his anger against Israel the Lord gave them into the hands of raiders who plundered them. He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to

resist. <sup>15</sup> Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the Lord was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.

<sup>16</sup> Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders. <sup>17</sup> Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors, who had been obedient to the Lord's commands. <sup>18</sup> Whenever the Lord raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the Lord relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them. <sup>19</sup> But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their ancestors, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

<sup>20</sup> Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel and said, "Because this nation has violated the covenant I ordained for their ancestors and has not listened to me, <sup>21</sup> I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died. <sup>22</sup> I will use them to test Israel and see whether they will keep the way of the Lord and walk in it as their ancestors did." <sup>23</sup> The Lord had allowed those nations to remain; he did not drive them out at once by giving them into the hands of Joshua.

## Questions for Discussion

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

***For the kids:*** Why did the people of Israel weep when the angel of the Lord talked to them?

***For the grownups:*** Verses 10-19 describe the cycle of events that will play out repeatedly through the book of Judges. Describe the cycle in your own words. Have you experienced similar cycles in your own life?

## 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.*

***Not one he will or can forsake;  
His cov'nant he will never break.  
Let ev'ry scheme the tempter try,  
You may his utmost pow'rs defy.  
(CW 53:5)***

*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 THIRD COMMANDMENT (Continued)**

Accordingly, when asked, What is meant by the commandment: Thou shalt sanctify the holy day? answer: To sanctify the holy day is the same as to keep it holy. But what is meant by keeping it holy? Nothing else than to be occupied in holy words, works, and life. For the day needs no sanctification for itself; for in itself it has been created holy [from the beginning of the creation it was sanctified by its Creator]. But God desires it to be holy to you. Therefore it becomes holy or unholy on your account, according as you are occupied on the same with things that are holy or unholy.

How, then, does such sanctification take place? Not in this manner, that [with folded hands] we sit behind the stove and do no rough [external] work, or deck ourselves with a wreath and put on our best clothes, but (as has been said) that we occupy ourselves with God's Word, and exercise ourselves therein.