

*Friday June 26, 2020*

## Opening

*Selected verses from Psalm 26*

*Leader:* Lord, I love the house where you reside,

***Family:* The place where your glory dwells.**

But as for me, I will walk in my integrity.

**Redeem me and be merciful to me.**

My feet stand on level ground.

**In the assemblies I will bless the LORD. Alleluia!**

## Bible Reading - Judges 16:4-22

<sup>4</sup> Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. <sup>5</sup> The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver."

<sup>6</sup> So Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued."

<sup>7</sup> Samson answered her, "If anyone ties me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man."

<sup>8</sup> Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she tied him with them. <sup>9</sup> With men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the bowstrings as easily as a piece of string snaps when it comes close to a flame. So the secret of his strength was not discovered.

<sup>10</sup> Then Delilah said to Samson, "You have made a fool of me; you lied to me. Come now, tell me how you can be tied."

<sup>11</sup> He said, "If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I'll become as weak as any other man."

<sup>12</sup> So Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them. Then, with men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were threads.

<sup>13</sup> Delilah then said to Samson, "All this time you have been making a fool of me and lying to me. Tell me how you can be tied."

He replied, "If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I'll become as weak as any other man." So while he was sleeping, Delilah took the seven braids of his head, wove them into the fabric <sup>14</sup> and tightened it with the pin.

Again she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and pulled up the pin and the loom, with the fabric.

<sup>15</sup> Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you won’t confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven’t told me the secret of your great strength.” <sup>16</sup> With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it.

<sup>17</sup> So he told her everything. “No razor has ever been used on my head,” he said, “because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother’s womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.”

<sup>18</sup> When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, “Come back once more; he has told me everything.” So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. <sup>19</sup> After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.

<sup>20</sup> Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!”

He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

<sup>21</sup> Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison. <sup>22</sup> But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

## 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 was the secret of Samson’s strength?

***For the grownups:*** What makes the Samson and Delilah account so tragic?

## 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.*

***I walk in danger all the way; The thought shall never leave me  
That Satan, who has marked his prey, Is plotting to deceive me.  
This foe with hidden snares May seize me unawares  
If e'er I fail to watch and pray; I walk in danger all the way.***

***I walk with Jesus all the way; His guidance never fails me.  
He takes my ev'ry fear away When Satan's pow'r assails me,  
And, by his footsteps led, My path I safely tread.  
In spite of ills that threaten may, I walk with Jesus all the way.  
(CW 431:1,5)***

*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 FOURTH COMMANDMENT (Continued)**

We must, therefore, impress it upon the young that they should regard their parents as in God's stead, and remember that however lowly, poor, frail, and queer they may be, nevertheless they are father and mother given them by God. They are not to be deprived of their honor because of their conduct or their failings. Therefore we are not to regard their persons, how they may be, but the will of God who has thus created and ordained. In other respects we are, indeed, all alike in the eyes of God; but among us there must necessarily be such inequality and ordered difference, and therefore God commands it to be observed, that you obey me as your father, and that I have the supremacy.

Learn, therefore, first, what is the honor towards parents required by this commandment, to wit, that they be held in distinction and esteem above all things, as the most precious treasure on earth. Furthermore, that also in our words we observe modesty toward them, do not accost them roughly, haughtily, and defiantly, but yield to them and be silent, even though they go too far. Thirdly, that we show them such honor also by works, that is, with our body and possessions, that we serve them, help them, and provide for them when they are old, sick, infirm, or poor, and all that not only gladly, but with humility and reverence, as doing it before God. For he who knows how to regard them in his heart will not allow them to suffer want or hunger, but will place them above him and at his side, and will share with them whatever he has and possesses.