

**Friday March 21, 2020**

## Opening

*(Selected verses from Psalm 41)*

**Leader:** I said, "O LORD, have mercy on me;

**Family:** **Heal me, for I have sinned against you.**

Praise be to the LORD,

**The God of Israel,**

From everlasting to everlasting.

**Amen and Amen.**

## Bible Reading - Luke 23:13-25

<sup>13</sup> Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, I will punish him and then release him." <sup>[17]</sup>

<sup>18</sup> But the whole crowd shouted, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!" <sup>19</sup> (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

<sup>20</sup> Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. <sup>21</sup> But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

<sup>22</sup> For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him."

<sup>23</sup> But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided to grant their demand. <sup>25</sup> He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

## 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 verdict does Pilate reach concerning Jesus?*

**For the grownups:** *How are we, in a twofold, way like Barabbas?*

## 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.*

**Jesus, I will ponder now  
On your holy passion;  
With your Spirit me endow  
For such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith  
May the image cherish  
Of your suff'ring, pain, and death  
That I may not perish.  
(CW 99)**

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

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## Catechism Study

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

## **The Fifth Commandment**

**You shall not murder.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.