

Wednesday March 26, 2020

## Opening

*Selected verses from Psalm 5*

Leader: Let all who take refuge in you be glad;

**Family: Let them ever sing for joy.**

Spread your protection over them,

**That those who love your name may rejoice in you.**

For surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous;

**You surround them with your favor as with a shield. Amen.**

## Bible Reading - Deuteronomy 28:1-14

If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. <sup>2</sup> All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God:

<sup>3</sup> You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

<sup>4</sup> The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

<sup>5</sup> Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.

<sup>6</sup> You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in obedience to him. <sup>10</sup> Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will fear you. <sup>11</sup> The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.

<sup>12</sup> The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. <sup>13</sup> The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. <sup>14</sup> Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.

## 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 are some ways that God blesses you?*

**For the grownups:** *This is part of God's Old Covenant with his people. The other part follows this reading, and is a list of curses God promises to those who disobey him. Compare this Old Covenant to God's New Covenant of the Gospel, where God promises full forgiveness freely. How do your faithfulness to God and God's blessings to you add up under this Old Covenant? Under the New Covenant?*

## 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.*

**Now thank we all our God  
With hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
In whom his world rejoices,  
Who from our mother's arms  
Has blessed us on our way**

**With countless gifts of love  
And still is ours today.  
(CW 610)**

*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 Ninth Commandment**

**You shall not give covet your neighbor's house.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house or obtain it by false claims, but do all we can to help him keep it.