

Wednesday May 13, 2020

## Opening

*Selected verses from Psalm 136*

*Leader:* Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

*Family:* **For his mercy endures forever.\***

Who remembered us in our low condition,

**For his mercy endures forever.**

And tore us out of the hands of our oppressors.

**For his mercy endures forever.**

He gives food to all living creatures.

**For his mercy endures forever.**

Give thanks to the God of the heavens.

**For his mercy endures forever. Alleluia!**

\*This repetitive refrain from Psalm 136 which we use as part of our common table prayer in Hebrew is *יְיָ לְעוֹלָם חַסְדּוֹ* (Pronounced *Kee leh-oh-LAHM husDOE.*) For an experience closer to the original use of the psalm, try saying the response in Hebrew!

## Bible Reading - John 8:30-40

<sup>30</sup> As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

<sup>31</sup> So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> You will also know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

<sup>33</sup> “We are Abraham’s descendants,” they answered, “and we have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say, ‘You will be set free’?”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Everyone who keeps committing sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> But a slave does not remain in the family forever. A son does remain forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free. <sup>37</sup> I know you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because there is no place for my word in you. <sup>38</sup> I am telling you what I have seen at the side of the Father. As for you, you do what you have heard at the side of your father.”

<sup>39</sup> “Our father is Abraham!” they answered.

“If you were Abraham’s children,” Jesus told them, “you would do the works of Abraham. <sup>40</sup> But now you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard at the side of God. Abraham did not do this.

## Questions for Discussion

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

**For the kids:** *Being a slave you cannot free yourself. Someone needs to set you free. How has Jesus set you free from slavery to sin?*

**For the grownups:** *Most people would not willingly become a slave. How do we sometimes willingly become a slave to sin?*

## 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 Jesus Christ, you set us free  
Accept our thanks eternally!  
Forgiven through your precious blood,  
We now are reconciled to God.  
(CW 123)**

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

*\*(Note that the words on YouTube vary from the hymnal.)*

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## Catechism Study

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

### **Table of Duties**

#### *Employers*

Treat your employees in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.