

Wednesday May 20, 2020

Opening

Selected verses from Psalm 54

Leader: God, save me by your name.

Family: **By your power judge me justly.**

For strangers have risen up against me.

Ruthless men seek my life. They pay no attention to God.

Indeed, God is my helper.

The Lord is the one who preserves my life.

I will praise your name, O LORD, because it is good.

Surely, from all my distress he has delivered me. Amen.

Bible Reading - Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some hesitated because they were uncertain. ¹⁸ Jesus approached and spoke to them saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and by teaching them to keep all the instructions I have given you. And surely I am with you always until the end of the age."

Questions for Discussion

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

For the kids: *It is possible that this was spoken to over 500 people, not just to the eleven disciples. (1 Corinthians 15:6) What job (duty) does every Christian even the young have?*

For the grownups: *Jesus has the power. (verse 18). Jesus has given us (not just pastors) the command. (verse 19&20a) What reassurance do we have that we are not doing the work by ourselves? (verse 20b)*

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.

**Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise: "I am with you evermore"?
(CW 169 v3)**

Our hymnal uses Beethoven's familiar tune "Ode to Joy" for this hymn. That tune can be found on [YouTube](#). Other church bodies use the familiar tune "Hyferdol" for this hymn, but do not have the same order of verses.

Large Catechism Study

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

Introduction (Continued)

But for myself I say this: I am also a doctor and preacher, yea, as learned and experienced as all those may be who have such presumption and security; yet I do as a child who is being taught the Catechism, and ever morning, and whenever I have time, I read and say, word for word, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Psalms, etc. And I must still read and study daily, and yet I cannot master it as I wish, 8] but must remain a child and pupil of the Catechism, and am glad so to remain. And yet these delicate, fastidious fellows would with one reading promptly be doctors above all doctors, know everything and be in need of nothing. Well, this, too, is indeed a sure sign that they despise both their office and the souls of the people, yea, even God and His Word. They do not have to fall, they are already fallen all too horribly; they would need to become children, and begin to learn their alphabet, which they imagine that they have long since outgrown.

Therefore I beg such lazy paunches or presumptuous saints to be persuaded and believe for God's sake that they are verily, verily! not so learned or such great doctors as they imagine; and never to presume that they have finished learning this [the parts of the Catechism], or know it well enough in all points, even though they think that they know it ever so well. For though they should know and understand it perfectly (which, however, is impossible in this life), yet there are manifold benefits and fruits still to be obtained, if it be daily read and practised in thought and speech; namely, that the Holy Ghost is present in such reading and repetition and meditation, and bestows ever new and more light and devoutness, so that it is daily relished and appreciated better, as Christ promises, Matt. 18:20: Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.