

Wednesday May 6, 2020

Opening
Psalm 23

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd.

Family: **I lack nothing.**

He causes me to lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

Your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

You set a table for me in the presence of my foes.

You drench my head with oil. My cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy will pursue me all the days of my life.

And I will live in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

Bible Reading - Ezekiel 36:33-38

³³ This is what the Lord God says. On the day that I cleanse you from all your guilty deeds, I will resettle your cities, and the ruins will be rebuilt. ³⁴ The desolate land will be cultivated instead of remaining desolate in the sight of every passerby. ³⁵ People will say, "This land that was devastated has become like the Garden of Eden, and the cities that were ruined, desolate, and destroyed are now fortified and inhabited." ³⁶ Then the nations that remain around you will know that I, the Lord, have rebuilt the places that were destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.

³⁷ This is what the Lord God says. I will also allow the house of Israel to ask me to do this for them. I will multiply them so their people are like flocks. ³⁸ Like flocks consecrated for sacrifice, like the flocks of Jerusalem on its festival days, so the ruined cities will be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the Lord.

Questions for Discussion

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

For the kids: *In verse 37 it talks about asking God for help. How do we ask God for help? When and where can we ask God for help?*

For the grownups: *This section of scripture takes place at a time when Jerusalem has been destroyed and the Israelites were being held captive in Babylon. Think how this can relate to us as we have been under stay at home directives and businesses face possible failure. Who can we turn to ask for help at this time who holds everything in his control? Above all else what promise land with no difficulties waits for us simply by faith in Jesus and his forgiveness?*

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.

***The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leads me
The quiet waters by.***

***Goodness and mercy, all my life,
Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling-place shall be.
(CW 360 vv1,5)***

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

Catechism Study

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

Table of Duties

Government

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.