

*Saturday September 19, 2020*

## Opening

*Selected verses from Psalm 41*

**Leader:** How blessed is the person who understands the plight of the weak!

**Family:** **May the LORD deliver him in the day of trouble.**

May the LORD guard him and keep him alive.

**May he be blessed in the land.**

I said, “Lord, have mercy on me.

**Heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.”**

My enemies speak evil about me:

**“When will he die and his name perish?”**

But you, LORD, have mercy on me.

**Raise me up, so that I can repay them.**

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

**From eternity to eternity. Amen and Amen.**

## Bible Reading - 2 Kings 19:1-7,32-37

**19** When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and went into the temple of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> He sent Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary and the leading priests, all wearing sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. <sup>3</sup> They told him, “This is what Hezekiah says: This day is a day of distress and rebuke and disgrace, as when children come to the moment of birth and there is no strength to deliver them. <sup>4</sup> It may be that the Lord your God will hear all the words of the field commander, whom his master, the king of Assyria, has sent to ridicule the living God, and that he will rebuke him for the words the Lord your God has heard. Therefore pray for the remnant that still survives.”

<sup>5</sup> When King Hezekiah’s officials came to Isaiah, <sup>6</sup> Isaiah said to them, “Tell your master, ‘This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid of what you have heard—those words with which the underlings of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. <sup>7</sup> Listen! When he hears a certain report, I will make him want to return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword.’ ”

<sup>32</sup> “Therefore this is what the Lord says concerning the king of Assyria:

“ ‘He will not enter this city  
or shoot an arrow here.

He will not come before it with shield  
or build a siege ramp against it.

<sup>33</sup> By the way that he came he will return;  
he will not enter this city,

declares the Lord.

<sup>34</sup> I will defend this city and save it,  
for my sake and for the sake of David my servant.' ”

<sup>35</sup> That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies! <sup>36</sup> So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.

<sup>37</sup> One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisrok, his sons Adrammelek and Sharezer killed him with the sword, and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son succeeded him as king.

## 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 does the Lord do to the mighty Assyrian army in order to protect his people?*

**For the grownups:** *With this story in mind, reflect on Paul’s question: “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)*

## 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.*

***If God himself be for me, I may a host defy;  
For when I pray, before me My foes, confounded, fly.  
If Christ, my head and master, Befriend me from above,  
What foe or what disaster Can drive me from his love?***

***I build on this foundation: That Jesus and his blood  
Alone are my salvation, My true, eternal good.  
Without him all that pleases Is valueless on earth;  
The gifts I have from Jesus Alone have priceless worth.***

***No sin can now condemn me Or set my hope aside.  
Now hell no more can claim me; Its fury I deride.  
No sentence now reproves me; No guilt destroys my peace,  
For Christ, my Savior, loves me And shields me with his grace.  
(419:1,3,5)***

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

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## Large Catechism Study

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

### **THE NINTH AND TENTH COMMANDMENTS (Continued)**

Thus it was done formerly also with respect to wives: they knew such devices that if one were pleased with another woman, he personally or through others (as there were many ways and means to be invented) caused her husband to conceive a displeasure toward her, or had her resist him and so conduct herself that he was obliged to dismiss her and leave her to the other. That sort of thing undoubtedly prevailed much under the Law, as also we read in the Gospel of King Herod that he took his brother's wife while he was yet living, and yet wished to be thought an honorable, pious man, as St. Mark also testifies of him. But such an example, I trust, will not occur among us, because in the New Testament those who are married are forbidden to be divorced, except in such

a case where one [shrewdly] by some stratagem takes away a rich bride from another. But it is not a rare thing with us that one estranges or alienates another's man-servant or maid-servant, or entices them away by flattering words.