

## **Faith at Home Corner** - *For the week of March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

*by Rev. Steve Andrews Jr.*

**Weekly Tip for Worshipping with Your Children:** *Worshipping with children is not easy, but it is necessary and worthwhile! Even from the time of birth, children learn the most by observing what their parents do. We are here to help. This week's tip is for: **Everyone!***

**COLOR CHANGE:** Notice that the different colors of the altar and the stoles (the sash that the pastors wear over their albs/robes) changed! The colors help us mark the time of the church year. **White** is the color of purity and completeness and is used primarily during the **Sundays of the Easter season** to remind us that "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection day is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before His Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy. It is also used for the same message for festive Sundays: Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; All-Saints' Day; and seventeen minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in Lutheran Service Book.

**Outreach Made Simply Practical!** *Live your normal, everyday lives with Gospel intentionality!*

**Holy Week:** Our church's tradition of celebrating Holy Week is not universal. This is a fantastic opportunity to share Christ with others. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Three opportunities to invite others to hear the Word. Three opportunities to speak to your neighbor about the faith you hold dear (as they probably have no clue that Maundy means "a new commandment," referring to the Lord's Supper, or why we call His death "good," and Easter is the high point of the year!).

**Weekly Worship Helps for the Home:** *How do we go about doing devotions together as a family? How do we teach our children about their Lord and Savior? Here are some simple ways to do just that, to make Christ the center of your family and to be in His Word daily. This guide is designed to help your family read through the Scriptures together in three years and to cover the Small Catechism in just one year!*

*You can certainly do this however you would like. In my home, we read a chapter of the Bible together after dinner each night, followed by reciting the three chief parts of the Catechism (Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, and the Lord's Prayer) and then we sing a hymn. There are any number of ways to talk about God in your home!*

-Pray together! This week's **Prayer List:** <http://www.gracefaithlove.org/newsletter>

-Daily Scripture Readings: Let's read a selection of texts for Holy Week: Numbers 21, Psalm 22, Matthew 20, Matthew 26-28, 1 Corinthians 15! Feel free to ask your pastor any questions that come up!

-Memory verse: Isaiah 25:9 – "It will be said on that day, 'Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.'"

-Hymn: *Awake, My Heart with Gladness*

LSB 467, also in [Lutheran Service Builder](#)

-Psalm: 140

-Small Catechism (2017): Review together the section on the Apostle's Creed, First Article, on pg. 16. Digging Deeper with the Explanation – The Second Article (Part 3), pg. 188-194.

-Devotions resources: grab a copy of *Portals of Prayer* at church or subscribe to daily email devotions from [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org), [www.lutheranchurchcharities.org](http://www.lutheranchurchcharities.org), or <https://media.higherthings.org/reflections/>.

Feel free to share with family and friends, neighbors and coworkers, anyone you'd like!

## God Time at Home

*Select questions and adapt for your family.*

**FOR STARTERS:** Have the kids draw a picture of how Jesus rescues us from our sins, providing a way for us to live with God forever. Discuss what will be the best thing about living with God in His kingdom forever.

**READ THE BIBLE:** Read about Jesus' death on the cross, Mark 15:20-39.

**KEY VERSE:** John 10:10, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*

**TALK ABOUT IT:** When you think of the cross, do you remember the painful way Jesus died? Why did Jesus give up His life and die on the cross? *(See John 3:16. His life was given so our sins would be forgiven. If we believe in Him, we will not die but have everlasting life.)*

Can you think of some sins for which Jesus took your punishment? Do you know for sure if you will go to Paradise? If so, why? *(It is because Jesus gave His life for us. Our sins acted like a wall, stopping us from being with God, but Jesus made a hole through the wall of sin, that we may be with Him. And there's nothing we have to do to get in! Simply by believing in Jesus, by trusting in His promises, we will be with Him forever.)*

Do you have faith in Christ, trusting that He will save you? If so, what can you do for your friends who are not on the path? How can you help them know Jesus?

**PRAYER:** Thank Jesus for choosing to give His life as a sacrifice for our sins. Thank Him for making a way for us to be with God, now and forever. In your prayers, mention by name any people that do not know Jesus.

## Family Time Option

*One day this week, try...*

Next week is Easter. It is a time many people will visit churches if only someone would ask them. Let family members think of whom they might invite to Easter services this week. Or maybe some friends would be interested in attending another special service that your church offers this week.