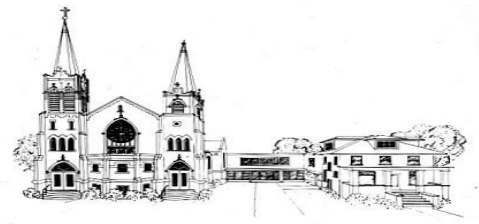


Faith At Home

Sunday, March 29



Confession and Forgiveness

A family practice

Each family member can read the confession. Take turns reading the words of forgiveness to each other:

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my family, that I have sinned in thought, word and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen

The Apostles' Creed

Unified in our baptism, we confess our faith:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Praying

A family practice

Have every member of the family write a prayer to God, naming one of the following themes:

Creation

Those who are sick

Those dealing with the fears of the pandemic

Those dealing with the loss of loved ones

Those serving in the military

Those serving in positions of leadership

Are there other concerns you need to name?

After you write these prayers share them aloud with one another.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

This Week In God's Word — Fifth Sunday in Lent

Hearing God's Word

Take time as a family to open the Bible and read these stories together. Take turns reading. Do not be afraid of words, like names, that you are unfamiliar with. Say it like you mean it.

The First Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel experiences a vision of God's renewing Spirit as a valley of bones is brought back to life as a sign of eternal hope.

The Psalm Psalm 130

The Second Reading Romans 8:6-11

Paul writes about the difference between the flesh and the Spirit. With Christ in us, we live by the Spirit not the flesh.

The Gospel John 11:1-14

Jesus travels to Bethany where his friend Lazarus has died. Jesus restores his life as a sign of the resurrection we will experience in Christ.

A time of blessing

When you have spent your time together, praying and listening to God's Word, take a moment to bless one another:

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

And may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Family Check-In Time

Give each other time to share

What normal life routine do you miss the most right now?

What new thing have you been doing that makes you happy?

Insights from Scripture

This Sunday, Jesus travels to Bethany. His close friend Lazarus has died. As he arrives, Jesus meets both of Lazarus' sisters as he enters the town. Both are naturally very sad. They also express an anger that Jesus did not help them sooner. They also express hope that Jesus can still help them even now.

We sometimes think we cannot experience anger/sadness at the same time as we experience hope. But scripture demonstrates these emotions can happen at the same time.

Talk with one another about how you are experiencing anger or sadness at the same time you experience hope.

Name at least one thing during the Coronavirus pandemic that has made you feel the most sad.

Name at least one thing during the Coronavirus pandemic that has given you the most hope.

Remembering Jesus when we eat

On Sunday, when you gather as a family for a meal, it can be appropriate to remember Jesus as you eat. This is not a replacement of Holy Communion, but telling the story reminds us that Jesus is with the whole Church, even as we are not gathered at the altar in our sanctuary.

Read these verses, say your dinner prayer, then eat in the joy of the Lord's presence.

St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, "For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."