

Faith At Home

Sunday, May 3, 4th Sunday of Easter



Remembrance of Baptism

A family practice

Get a small bowl of water.

Read one of these stories:

Genesis 9:8-17

Exodus 14:15-31

Luke 4:21-22

Romans 6:1-11

Dip your finger in the bowl, make the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads, and say, "Remember, you are a baptized Child of God."

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 — 4th Sunday of Easter

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 Acts 2:42-47

The early church began with an idyllic community, living in harmony and focusing on sharing resources.

The Psalm Psalm 23

The Second Reading 1 Peter 2:19-25

We are called to follow the example of Jesus, in a time of suffering, we are to endure as he endured the cross.

The Gospel John 10:1-10

After healing a blind man, and dealing with the scandal it created, Jesus uses the imagery of a shepherd, a gatekeeper, and a gate, avowing that his own will always recognize his voice.

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:

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.

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

Amen.

Family Check-In Time

If you own pets, how do they respond to your voice?

Talk about a time when in a crowded space, you had to find a parent or a child only by using a voice.

Insights from Scripture

Hearing the voice of the Shepherd is not always easy. We have multiple sources that all claim to know the voice and tell us what it sounds like. Sometimes this leads to great confusion. The confusion comes when different voices do not agree on how to hear THE VOICE of Jesus. Being Lutheran, we rely heavily on statements like the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and verses that proclaim God's grace, mercy and love. These become guideposts to help us recognize if we are hearing the voice of Jesus, or the voice of someone trying to lead us astray.

It is more difficult now in a time of quarantine, because our opportunity to have in-person discussion has been taken from us. But the guideposts remain. We still have the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and we still have scripture that helps us to see God from a perspective of grace, love and mercy.

Talk as a family about what is helping you to hear the voice of Jesus during this quarantine time.

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."