



Week Six; April 27- May 3
Theme: Government and Authority

Solomon said to God, "Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"
1 Kings 3:9

"Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless." Titus 3:1-9

"Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor." 1 Peter 2:17

Luther writes, "The secular government doesn't extend any further than external and physical matters. God can tolerate secular government because it doesn't concern itself with sins, good works, or spiritual matters. Instead, it handles other matters, such as guarding cities, building bridges, collecting tolls and taxes, providing protection, defending the land and the people, and punishing criminals. So Christians should obey government officials as long as these officials don't command them to do something against their conscience. Christians obey without having to be forced because they're free in all matters.

If an emperor or prince were to ask me about my faith, I surely would tell him, not because of his governmental authority, but because I should confess my faith publicly. If, however, he ordered me to believe this or that, I would say, 'Sir, take care of the secular government. You have no authority intruding on God's kingdom. I will not obey you. You cannot tolerate anyone intruding on your domain. If someone oversteps their boundary without your permission, you punish him. Do you think that God should tolerate your desire to push Him off His throne and seat yourself in His place?'

Peter calls the secular government merely a human institution. It has no power to interfere with the way God has arranged the world. It has no power to give orders on faith."

Lord God, as I pray for all who are in authority, I thank You especially for the form of government given us in our beloved country. Give me the grace with my fellow citizens to value the officers and officials of our government as those sent by You. Instill in me that respect and honor that is due them. Lord, endow them with wisdom for their special duties, with a spirit of sacrifice for the common welfare, with mercy and justice, with uprightness, and kindness. Correct the evils of selfishness, greed, a vain desire for honor, or abuse of power among us as well as in the other governments of this world. Grant that the true purposes of government may prevail, safeguarding peace and prosperity, so that we may live soberly and uprightly in Your sight and have opportunity to tell of You and Your kingdom. These petitions I direct to You because in Jesus I know You as my Father and Lord. Amen.

Prayer suggestions – You can use these or lift up your own. We encourage you to pray these prayers each day. In addition, we urge you to add the names of those printed at the bottom of the page. These are individuals connected in some way to the ministries of Berea and Agape Hill. If you would like someone added to the list, make sure they approve having their name included and email the information to Pastor Jeff.

Monday – Nation: Eternal Lord, Ruler of all, graciously regard those who have been set in positions of authority among us that they may be guided by your Spirit, be high in purpose, wise in counsel, firm in good resolution, and unwavering in duty. Father, we pray for the executive, legislative and judicial branches of our United States, for those who protect us in this place, for our own good citizenship, for the promotion of virtue in our land, and for the end of a culture of indifference. Lord may we be reminded to be thankful for this country and the freedom you have granted us. We pray this in the name of our Savior in whom we trust. Amen

***Hope of the world, Thou Christ of great compassion;
Speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.
Save us, Thy people, from consuming passion,
Who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.***

LSB 690:1

Tuesday – State and City: Mighty God, we pray on behalf of our state and city leaders and all those in authority over us, that you would grant them divine wisdom, strength, discernment and boldness. We pray for all leaders, their families and the many decisions that need to be made each day, especially in this time of pandemic, that they lead according to Your will and providence. Help us Lord not to be quick to judge our leaders, rather may we be merciful as Jesus has been to us and remember that we are all God's children and loved by him. We pray this in the confidence of faith provided by Your Spirit and in the powerful name of Your Son, our Savior Jesus. Amen.

***Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
Bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,
Still let Thy Spirit unto us be given
To heal earth's wounds and end our bitter strife.***

LSB 690:2

Wednesday – World: Great and Glorious God who created all the earth we pray for the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God and for the unity of all. Let us pray Psalm 9:7-10 "But the Lord sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness. The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you." May Your Word be boldly and graciously proclaimed in all places and to all people. In the precious and powerful name of our Savior Jesus. Amen

*Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
Showing to wandr'ingsouls the path of light,
Walk Thou beside us lest the tempting byways
Lure us away from Thee to endless night.*

LSB 690:3

Thursday – Good Citizenship: Almighty God help us to remember the fourth Commandment You gave to us. Honor your father and mother, along with Martin Luther's explanation: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve them and obey them, love and cherish them." "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment." Roman's 13:1-2. Jesus remind us of the great gift and responsibility it is to be a good citizen. Keep us steadfast in our faith as we wait upon You. In the name of our Savior Jesus. Amen.

*Hope of the world, who by Thy cross didst save us
From death and dark despair, from sin and guilt,
We render back the love Thy mercy gave us;
Take Thou our lives and use them as Thou wilt.*

LSB 690:4

Friday – Justice: Dear Father we ask your help to remind us that justice is not defined as all things going the way we want them to go. Because of sin, there is oppression and unrighteousness in our world, Lord, draw us to You, that in You we find guidance and willingness to help others treated unfairly, always placing our trust in Jesus when injustices occur. "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8 We pray this in our mighty Savior, who gave His life for us and we ask of You to lead us as your dear children to defend the weak, and be advocates for those who are treated unjustly. Amen.

*Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,
Who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,
We would be faithful to Thy Gospel glorious,
Thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!*

LSB 690:5

Saturday – The Sovereignty of God: YOU O GOD ARE SOVEREIGN ABOVE ALL! You willingly sacrificed Your Son to save us. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this." Isaiah 9:6-7 We confess You to be sovereignly in control of what happens in our lives, our families, and our nation. Holy Lord, have mercy on us and the sin that still clings to our life. You know all there is to know about me and yet, You still choose to love me. We lift up our praises to Your Son, our risen King Jesus who You have placed at Your throne both Lord and God. We thank You for the gift of forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation that is ours through His cross. We lay all our concerns, needs, and hopes at the throne of Your grace and we place our trust in You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to provide all we need at the appropriate time. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord's Prayer: 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.

***Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.
O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.***

LSB 655

Some wise advice for this time of quarantine...

Our health and well being is an interconnection of our body, mind and spirit. Recently on The Lutheran Hour Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler said "Whatever gets your attention **"gets you."** What gets your attention? The pandemic, politics, worry, or the Risen Savior's eternal mercy and love for you? **Choose wisely what will get your attention** because it will get the health and well being of your body, mind and spirit positively or negatively depending on your choice.

Parish Nurse **Joanie Kolton**, Family Connections Director

PRAYER REQUESTS as of the date of the printing: *Welcome! It is not by accident that our Lord has led us here to this moment. We pray with you for His guidance and encouragement as we strive to be His disciples and share the message of salvation with others. Amen.*

Cancer: *Carol Spatzek, breast, Judy Branson, breast, Tom Brueckner, prostate, Julia Grau, granddaughter of Chet & Marge Grau, eye, Eli Kessler, great nephew of the Heckerts, leukemia, Kathy Schmid, aunt of Robin Mueller, liver, Randy Clinard, former Berea member, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Sharon Beay, step-sister of Ray Leidy, eye melanoma, Ron Schroeder, former member, Stem-cell transplant T-Cell lymphoma, Diane, friend of Shannon Biedenbender (former member), lung,*

Hospice: *Linda, Dearest friend of Sally Goelz (Agape Hill), brain tumor/cancer, Bill Schoeller one of our Luther Manor bible study and church regulars, Luther Manor*

Rehabilitation: *Lorraine Biang, Luther Manor, fall, George DeJarlais, Terry's husband, heart surgery, home. Myrt Tetting, Luther Manor,*

Ongoing needs: *Maxine Dudley, severe back pains, Lane Branson, multiple health challenges, Lavonne Biedenbender, multiple health concerns, Steve Biedenbender, lung disease, Henry Klaves, epilepsy, Irm Tewes, Luther Manor Monday attendee, severe and continuous pain, Shirley McMahon, Aunt of Robin Mueller, transferred to Brookdale Memory Care*

Homebound: *Rev. Richard Borchers, Lutheran Home, Dorothy Britton Brookdale Assisted Living, Rose Eisner Home, Elinor Heitman Harwood Place,*

Birthdays: *4/29 Lorraine Guenther (100), 5/3 Rachel Britton*

Anniversaries: *4/30 Steve and Cathy Sandow*

If there are any additional names you would like to see added to our prayer list or if we have forgotten someone, please email Pastor Jeff at jmueller47@yahoo.com