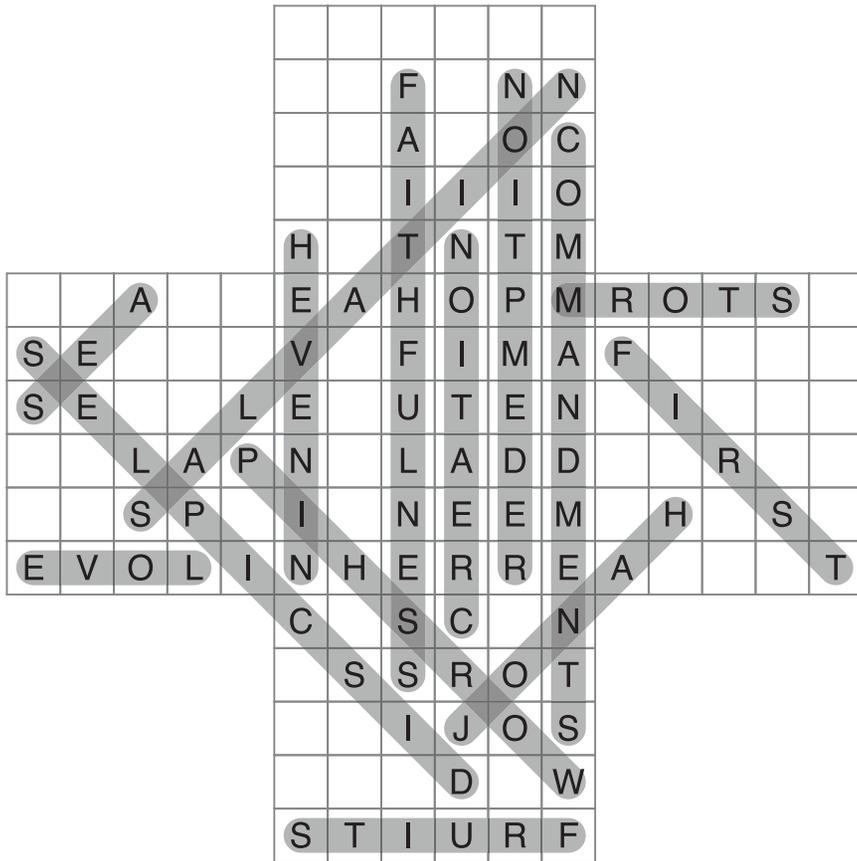


FRIDAY — ACTIVITY

Find the following words:

COMMANDMENTS • CREATION • DISCIPLES • FIRST • FRUITS
 JONAH • LOVE • NINEVEH • REDEMPTION • SALVATION • SEA
 STORM • WORSHIP



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Lambs at Pasture™

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

INTROIT

Psalm 107:1, 8, 24–25; antiphon: Psalm 107:28–29

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

He made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wondrous works to the children of men!

They saw the deeds of the LORD,
his wondrous works in the deep.

For he commanded and raised the stormy wind,
which lifted up the waves of the sea.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.

He made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed.

DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

An answer key is available for download at www.stluth.org/lap

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 97:1

Alleluia. The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! Alleluia.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: LSB #715 – Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

CATECHISM CONNECTION:

The First Commandment with Explanation (page 12)

COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MONDAY — THE PSALM

Read Psalm 96

What is the “new song”? (verses 1-2)

The gospel — God’s plan for our salvation through Christ Jesus

Review *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 22 (pages 59–60)

TUESDAY — THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read Jonah 1:1–17

What did the LORD command Jonah to do? (verse 2)

The LORD called Jonah to preach against the evil doings going on in Nineveh.

What did Jonah do instead? (verses 3-4)

When the Word of the LORD came to Jonah, calling him to confront Nineveh of their wickedness, he didn’t respond with a voice of faith and courage. In fact, he turned tail and caught the first ship going the other way.

How did the Lord use the great storm?

God wanted Jonah to repent and follow His Word.

Like Jonah, we are consistently opposed to the ways and workings of God. And while our running may not be so obvious as that of Jonah’s, yet when His Word calls for us to go in a direction we don’t want to go, when it involves changes in our lives and the forsaking of our favorite idols, that’s when we run. Whatever it is that we do to avoid our responsibilities as a husband or wife, as a worker or a neighbor, as a parent or child; wherever it is that we go to hide out from the stations of life into which God has placed us; whenever we engage in excuse-making for our failure to follow His words and heed His calling, that is when we are being just like Jonah here, stowing away in the belly of some ship. Repent. Stop trying to run from God and His Word and from the life He has called us to.

WEDNESDAY — THE GOSPEL

Read Matthew 8:23–27

What happened in this lesson?

Jesus went into the boat first, and His disciples followed Him. They then went out to sea, and there was a great storm, and they panicked, and He helped them. Jesus calmed the storm.

Compare the reaction of the disciples to Jesus’ reaction during the great storm.

There is a tremendous contrast between the panic that besets these disciples and the calm state of Jesus. On the one hand, here are these fishermen, who have been out in the middle of the Sea of Galilee before, nevertheless, this storm is so fierce that the waves swept over the boat (NIV), and as it is being swamped by the waves (ESV), probably about to capsize, these seasoned fisherman panic — they’re fearful for their lives. While, on the other hand, in a storm so furious as to threaten to capsize this boat, Jesus is so calm that He’s asleep. Clearly, He’s not worried about a thing.

What greater lesson is being taught?

If even the winds and the sea obey Him, surely Christ Jesus can help you out of whatever trouble you fall into. He can do all things — He can still the storms; He can heal the sick; He can raise the dead; He can shower upon you His loving-kindness and mercy, and He does. In fact, He does it at church every Sunday. He preaches to you His calming Gospel and feeds you with His holy Body and Blood — to calm you and the storms — even in your heart — as He calmed the sea that day, that you might have a calmer demeanor about the things that beset you in life, and learn to behave toward those things in the same way or toward the same way in which He did. Take your rest. Sleep, if you need to. Know that He will take care of it.

THURSDAY — THE EPISTLE

Read Romans 13:8–10

Which commandments are mentioned in this reading? (verse 9)

The 6th Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

The 5th Commandment: You shall not murder.

The 9th and 10th Commandments: You shall not covet.

What is the summary of the commandments in the second Table of the Law?

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Review *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 17 (page 55)

Optional Reading & Discussion Question

Romans 8:18–23

What are the firstfruits of the Spirit? (verse 23)

The first blessings of the Holy Spirit. Like the firstfruits of the harvest indicate more harvest is to come, future blessings from the Holy Spirit is to come as well.

Review *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 190 (pages 170–172)

CATECHISM CONNECTION

What is the connection of the First Commandment with Explanation and the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany?

We are to fear, love, and trust in God above all things.