

## **Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

Are you proud of your family? Are you happy that you are in the family that you are in?

I always liked going to the homes of my grandmas. Grandma Gumm always had coffee cake, donuts, cookies, and one of my favorites – her lemon bars. Grandma Pearlie (my mom's mom) always served ice cream before we went to bed. She had every kind of ice cream topping known to mankind. She would also make some of her favorite recipes – ham and bean soup, spaetzels, homemade chop suey. These women were God-fearing women. They loved their Lord and Savior. They were active in their churches. Now they are in glory. Being in their families was an awesome blessing from God's open hand of grace.

Psalm 68 reminds us of the blessings of being part of God's family. *Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds—his name is the LORD—and rejoice before him. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. Psalm 68:4-5.* As exciting as it may be to have a grandma who has lots of ice cream or lemon bars, we have a heavenly Father who rides on the clouds. That is a way of reminding us that our God is ruler over nature. He has power and control over all creation.

Mindful of our sinfulness, though, his power by itself does not comfort us completely, until we remember his name. His name is the LORD. The LORD himself explained his name in Exodus 34; he is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love.

As Psalm 68 continues, we see that our Father lives up to his name. In powerful, yet tender love he doesn't overlook those who might be overlooked or leave alone those who might be left alone. He is a father to the fatherless. He is a defender of widows. He is the Savior for the sinner. He is the reason we can sing and rejoice no matter what our family situation is or what challenges we might face. In his family, every need is met. In his family, no member is overlooked. In his family, there is joy and security. *And by faith, we are a part of his family!*

***Prayer:*** *Lord, I rejoice before you. You ride the clouds yet love me as your own child. Extend your love today to those who especially need it—to the fatherless, to the widows, to the lonely, to the forsaken—that they too might extol your holy name. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion, Adapted)

### **This Week In God's Grace**

**Today:** Pastor's Day Off

**Tuesday:** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class at Christ the King  
Pastor at Christ the King

**Wednesday:** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class at Bethany  
Pastor at Bethany

**Thursday:** Pastor at Christ the King – late morning and early afternoon

**Friday:** Pastor at Bethany

**Sunday:** 8:30 a.m. Worship Service at Bethany

9:30 a.m. Fellowship at Bethany  
9:45 a.m. Bible Class at Bethany  
9:30 a.m. Bible Class at Christ the King  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service at Christ the King

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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