Family Devotions:
Question 23 of the Shorter Catechism

Monday—
Q. 23. How is Christ our Redeemer?
A. As our redeemer, Christ is a prophet, priest, and king in both His humiliation and His exaltation.

God’s people waited hundreds of years for Him to send the One He had promised to send. This One would destroy Satan and his work. As they waited, God gave His people three kinds of special people: prophets, priests and kings. These three kinds of people helped God’s people know and do His will while they waited. They were also pictures of the One whom God had promised. Jesus would be the perfect prophet, the perfect priest and the perfect king all combined in one Person. This would be true during His humiliation, or the time of His living and suffering on earth. Jesus’ humiliation is over now and the time of His exaltation has begun. Jesus’ exaltation is the time of His being honored as He deserves because of what He has done for sinners. During His exaltation as well, He is also the perfect prophet priest and king. Read Hebrews 2:9

Tuesday –
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Prophets took the Word of God exactly as God had given it to them and passed it on to God’s people. This was how the people would know what God was like and what he wanted from them. One of the first prophets was Moses. God would meet with Moses and talk with him. Then Moses would tell the people what God had said. Once, the people heard God themselves. At the sound of His voice, the mountain from which He was talking shook and fire and smoke came from it. The people found it so frightening to listen to the holy and awesome God that they begged Moses to go listen to Him and talk with Him for them. At that point, God promised that one day He would give them a prophet who would be a human being like them and who would be faithful to reveal all God’s will. He was speaking of His Son, who would be the perfect prophet. Read Deuteronomy 18:15-19
Wednesday –
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It was the job of the priest to offer sacrifices for the sins of God’s people. The people would confess their sins and bring an animal to kill and offer to God. In this way people admitted that they deserved to die for their sin. They trusted God to provide Someone to die in their place. The animal sacrifices did not take away sins, but they pointed ahead to the death of Jesus that would take away sins forever. God appointed the priests to kill the animals and offer them as sacrifices.

Jesus came to the earth to die in the place of His people. He was the perfect priest. All the other priests simply pointed to Him. Jesus offered his own body and blood as a sacrifice. This sacrifice is so valuable that it has the power to wash away all sin forever. This is how Jesus was a priest in His humiliation, or life of suffering. Now that He is exalted, Jesus is still the priest of His people. Whenever Satan accuses one of God’s children of sin, Jesus is there as a reminder that His death paid for all the sins of God’s people. Jesus lives forever to pray for those for whom He died. Read Hebrews 7:24-27.

Thursday –
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During His humiliation, or life on earth, Jesus was the best prophet ever. All other prophets had spoken their own words most of the time, speaking God’s words only when He gave them to them. Everything Jesus ever said was the Word of God because He Himself was God. Jesus not only taught God’s will. He showed people God’s will by His perfect and sinless life. Now that Jesus is exalted in heaven, He still makes God’s will known to us through the Bible, where His words and life are recorded. He sends His people His Holy Spirit to give them understanding of His Word. Read Hebrews 1:1-3.
Friday –
Q. 23. How is Christ our Redeemer?

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Because He is God, Jesus is and always has been the greatest King of all. During the time of His humiliation on earth, He did not always look like a king. He was born to a poor family and lived as a poor man all His life. People hated and killed Him as a criminal. But there were many times when it was clear that Jesus is the highest King of all and that all creatures must obey Him. Read these two stories to see examples: Mark 1:23-27 and Mark 4:35-41.

Saturday –
Q. 23. How is Christ our Redeemer?

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After Jesus had accomplished the will of God by dying for His people, God raised Him from the dead and exalted Him over all. God raised Jesus higher than any other thing. Read Ephesians 1:20-23. What things is Jesus over now? What is under Jesus’ feet (or under His control)? God gave Jesus to the Church as head over what? This means that, as King, Jesus controls all that happens for the good of His people, the church.