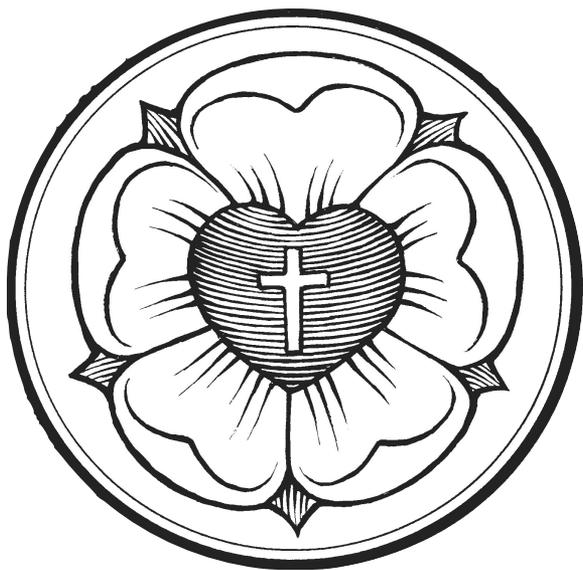

Martin Luther's
SMALL
CATECHISM

with Explanation and Prayers



English Standard Version

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THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

You shall have no other gods

What does this mean?

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

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities,

but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

THE CLOSE OF THE COMMANDMENTS

What does God say about all these commandments?

He says, "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate

**Me, but showing love to a thousand generations
of those who love Me and keep My
commandments.” (Exodus 20:5–6)**

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

THE CREED

THE FIRST ARTICLE

Creation

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of
heaven and earth.**

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or

worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank
and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

THE SECOND ARTICLE

Redemption

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

THE THIRD ARTICLE

Sanctification

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness

of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE ADDRESS

Our Father who art in heaven.

[Our Father in heaven.]

What does this mean?

With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

THE FIRST PETITION

Hallowed be Thy name.

[Hallowed be Your name.]

What does this mean?

God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy?

God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

THE SECOND PETITION

Thy kingdom come.

[Your kingdom come.]

What does this mean?

The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come?

God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

THE THIRD PETITION

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

[Your will be done on earth as in heaven.]

What does this mean?

The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God's will done?

God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die.

This is His good and gracious will.

THE FOURTH PETITION

Give us this day our daily bread.

[Give us today our daily bread.]

What does this mean?

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace,

health, self-control, good reputation, good friends,
faithful neighbors, and the like.

THE FIFTH PETITION

**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

[Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us.]

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven
would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer
because of them. We are neither worthy of the
things for which we pray, nor have we deserved
them, but we ask that He would give them all to us
by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve
nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely
forgive and gladly do good to those who sin
against us.

THE SIXTH PETITION

And lead us not into temptation.

[Lead us not into temptation.]

What does this mean?

God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that
God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the
world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or
mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great
shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these
things, we pray that we may finally overcome them
and win the victory.

THE SEVENTH PETITION

But deliver us from evil.

[But deliver us from evil.]

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

THE DOXOLOGY

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

[For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.]

What does this mean?

This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”

HOLY BAPTISM

FIRST

What is baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word.

Which is that Word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew:
"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19)

SECOND

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark:
"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)

THIRD

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain

water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three:

“He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” (Titus 3:5–8)

FOURTH

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Rom. 6:4)

THE OFFICE OF THE KEYS AND INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

CONFESSION: FIRST

What is Confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

CONFESSION: SECOND

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

CONFESSION: THIRD

Which are these [sins]?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

OFFICE OF THE KEYS: FIRST

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: "The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'" (John 20:22–23)

OFFICE OF THE KEYS: SECOND

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR: FIRST

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Where is this written?

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR: SECOND

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR: THIRD

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."

SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR: FOURTH

Who receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

DAILY PRAYERS

MORNING PRAYER

In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say:

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may also say this little prayer:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this

night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go joyfully to your work, singing a hymn, like that of the Ten Commandments, or whatever your devotion may suggest.

EVENING PRAYER

In the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross and say:

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may also say this little prayer:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go to sleep at once and in good cheer.

ASKING A MEAL BLESSING

The children and members of the household shall go to the table reverently, fold their hands, and say:

The eyes of all look to You, O Lord, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

(Ps. 145:15–16)

Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer and the following:

**Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these
Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful
goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

RETURNING THANKS AFTER THE MEAL

*Also, after eating, they shall, in like manner,
reverently and with folded hands say:*

**Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love
endures forever. [He] gives food to every creature.
He provides food for the cattle and for the young
ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the
strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs
of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear
Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.**

(Ps. 136:1, 25; 147:9–11)

Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer and the following:

**We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all
Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit
forever and ever. Amen.**

TABLE OF DUTIES

TO BISHOPS, PASTORS, AND PREACHERS

The overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (1 Tim. 3:2–4)

He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. (1 Tim. 3:6)

He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. (Titus 1:9)

WHAT THE HEARERS OWE THEIR PASTORS

The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. (1 Cor. 9:14)

Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. (Gal. 6:6–7)

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, “Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,” and “The worker deserves his wages.” (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. (1 Thes. 5:12–13)

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Heb. 13:17)

OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. (Rom. 13:1–4)

OF CITIZENS

Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. (Matt. 22:21)

It is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. It is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. (Rom. 13:5–7)

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. It is good, and pleases God our Savior. (1 Tim. 2:1–3)

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good. (Titus 3:1)

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. (1 Peter 2:13–14)

TO HUSBANDS

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. (1 Peter 3:7)

Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.
(Col. 3:19)

TO WIVES

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. (Eph. 5:22)

They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.
(1 Peter 3:5–6)

TO PARENTS

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4)

TO CHILDREN

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and your mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—“that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” (Eph. 6:1–3)

TO WORKERS OF ALL KINDS

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. (Eph. 6:5–8)

TO EMPLOYERS AND SUPERVISORS

Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him. (Eph. 6:9)

TO YOUTH

Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. (1 Peter 5:5-6)

TO WIDOWS

The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. (1 Tim. 5:5-6)

TO EVERYONE

The commandments...are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Rom. 13:9)

I urge...that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone. (1 Tim. 2:1)

PRAYERS ON THE CATECHISM

FIRST COMMANDMENT

Lord God, You require us to fear, love, and trust in You above all things. Grant unto us undivided hearts to fear Your wrath and so avoid the evil that You abhor. Instead, help us to love what You command and trust in Your promises; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

SECOND COMMANDMENT

Holy and merciful God, cause us to fear and love You so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by Your name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks and so glorify Your name, which alone is holy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THIRD COMMANDMENT

By Your Word and Spirit, draw us away from our restless labor that we might find rest in You alone, merciful God. Grant that, fearing and loving You above all things, we may never despise the preaching of Your Word of Life, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOURTH COMMANDMENT

Heavenly Father, from whom all earthly fatherhood has its source: Look in mercy on Your children that we may never sin against You by despising or angering our parents and others whom You place in authority over us. Give us repentance where we have ignored, neglected, or provoked our parents, and enable us to honor, serve, obey, love, and cherish them as Your instruments for giving us life and blessing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

FIFTH COMMANDMENT

God, defender of the weak and helper of the helpless, we implore You to sustain us with Your favor and to strengthen us by Your mercy that we might act with tenderness toward our neighbors, never hurting or harming them in their bodies by hateful words, destructive deeds, or neglect of their well-being. Instead, empower us to help and support them in every physical need even as You have shown mercy to us in Your crucified Son in whose name we pray. Amen.

SIXTH COMMANDMENT

Holy Father, You blessed our first parents in Paradise with the gift of marriage, and by Your Word You continue to unite men and women in this estate, which You have hallowed and blessed. Guard us from all dishonorable lust and every sexual sin that we may be pure and decent in all that we say or do. Answer the cries of those who seek a godly spouse, and uphold all married couples in faithfulness that they may honor and love each other and so glorify You; through Jesus Christ, who is the true Bridegroom to His Bride, the Church. Amen.

SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

Father of light and Giver of every good gift, keep us from treating our neighbors' money or possessions as things that we are free to take for ourselves. Instead, give us charity of heart that we might help and assist our neighbors to improve and protect their possessions and income so they may live without want or neediness and so enjoy the blessings that You have bestowed on them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

God of truth, set a guard over the door of our lips, that our tongues may be purified from sinful speech and sanctified for the words that edify. Give us repentance where we have uttered falsehood, betrayed through exposing secrets, slandered with

malicious gossip, or hurt our neighbor's reputation with lies or half-truths. Make us eager and ready to come to the defense of our neighbors, speak well of them, and explain their circumstances and actions in the kindest way. Hear us for the sake of Him who is truth incarnate, Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

NINTH COMMANDMENT

Gracious Giver of every good and perfect gift, restrain our rogue hearts as they too easily are drawn to covetousness, which is idolatry. Break every scheme that would attempt to obtain for ourselves the property that You have given to our neighbors, and grant unto us contentment with the daily bread You have freely and without merit granted to us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

TENTH COMMANDMENT

Almighty God, Lord of all that is good and pure: Set our hearts on You alone so that we may not entice or force away the spouse, workers, or animals of our neighbor but urge them to fulfill their duties in the places where You have put them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CONCLUSION TO THE COMMANDMENTS

Lord God, in Your holy jealousy You will not share us with any false gods. Unite our hearts to fear Your wrath and never disobey Your Commandments and so incur Your deserved punishment. Enable us to love and trust in You above all things that by Your grace we might receive the blessings You promise to those who keep Your Commandments; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

Almighty Maker of heaven and earth: We give You thanks for the gift of our creation in body and soul. You are the giver of eyes,

ears, and all our members. You have endowed us with our reason and senses, and in Your mercy You take care of us. For what we need to support this body and life—food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land and animals, and all that we have—You richly and daily provide. In Your kind care You defend us against all danger and guard and protect us from all evil. All this You do out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. So we implore You, gracious God, to give us faith to acknowledge Your benefits, tongues to thank and praise Your holy name, and lives joyfully given to serve and obey You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.

SECOND ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

Lord Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from all eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary, You have redeemed us lost and condemned persons. For purchasing and winning us from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with Your holy, precious blood and with Your innocent suffering and death, we give You thanks. We praise You that You have made us Your own so that we may live under You in Your kingdom and serve You in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as You are risen from the dead and live and reign to all eternity with Your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THIRD ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

Lord Jesus, we cannot believe in You by our own reason or strength or come to You, but Your Holy Spirit has called us by the Gospel, enlightened us with His gifts, sanctified and kept us in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with You in the one true faith. In this Christian Church, the Holy Spirit daily and richly forgives us all our sins. On the Last Day, He will raise all the dead and give all of us who believe in You eternal life. For this we praise You and implore You according to Your promise

to send us the Comforter that we might continue in this confession. For You live and reign with Him and the Father, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ADDRESS TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy Father, with Your words You tenderly invite us to believe that You are our true Father and we are Your true children. Give us boldness and confidence to trust Your promises and so petition You as dear children addressing their dear father; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FIRST PETITION

Heavenly Father, whose name alone is holy in itself, by Your grace grant that it may be kept holy among us also. Cause Your Word to be taught in truth and purity in our midst, and sanctify us by Your truth to live holy lives according to it. Protect us from false teaching and unholy living that would profane Your name among us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

SECOND PETITION

Merciful Father, Your kingdom comes by itself without prayers, but we implore You to let it come to us also. Give us Your Holy Spirit, heavenly Father, that by Your grace we believe Your Word and lead godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

THIRD PETITION

Blessed God, Your good and gracious will is done even without prayer, but we pray that it may be done among us also. To that end, we petition You, holy Lord, to break and hinder every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow Your name or let Your kingdom come. Strengthen and keep us in Your Word and faith until we

die, and so fulfill in us Your good and gracious will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOURTH PETITION

Generous Father, You certainly open Your hand to give daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people. We pray that You would lead us to realize this and so receive our daily bread with thanksgiving, recognizing that in Your bountiful goodness You daily and richly supply everything that has to do with the support and needs of our bodies; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FIFTH PETITION

Father in heaven, do not look upon our sins or deny our prayers on account of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that You would give them to us by grace, for we daily sin much and deserve nothing but punishment. So we, too, will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us. In Your mercy, hear us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

SIXTH PETITION

God, You tempt no one to sin, so we pray that You would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our own sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that, trusting in You alone, we may finally overcome them and win the victory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SEVENTH PETITION

Our Father in heaven, rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end and graciously take us from this valley of

sorrows to Yourself in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Father in heaven, give us the certainty that the petitions we make according to Your command and promise are pleasing to You and are heard by You, so that with all boldness and confidence we might say: Amen, amen. Yes, yes, it shall be so; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who has taught us to pray in this way. Amen.

HOLY BAPTISM

Baptism I

Lord Jesus Christ, You instituted Baptism, which is not just plain water but water included in Your command and combined with Your word when You said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Grant us always to cherish our Baptism, trusting in the promises You make to us there, and so by this gift come to receive the inheritance of eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Baptism II

Lord Jesus Christ, by Your death You have purchased and won for us forgiveness of sins, rescuing us from death and the devil and obtaining eternal salvation which You now work in Baptism. Give us Your Spirit that we may believe what You have said, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved," and so receive these gifts of forgiveness of sins, victory over death and the devil, and eternal salvation, as Your words and promises declare. Amen.

Baptism III

Lord Christ, it is certainly not just water, but the Word of God in the water that does these great things, along with the faith which

trusts this Word of God in the water, for without God's Word the water is plain water and no Baptism. We confess and trust that with Your Word, this water is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of new life in the Holy Spirit, as Your apostle teaches: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:5–8). Give us hearts of faith to cling to this trustworthy saying, not doubting but firmly believing that this Baptism now saves us. Hear us, for we pray in Your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Baptism IV

Lord God, You have taught us through Your holy apostle: "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life" (Romans 6:4). Cause the old Adam in us to be drowned by daily contrition and repentance with all sins and evil desires, so that a new man might daily emerge and arise to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE OFFICE OF THE KEYS & INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Holy and merciful Father, You teach us that if we do not confess our sins, the truth is not in us. Grant us honest hearts to plead guilty of all sins, even those of which we are unaware—as we do in the Lord's Prayer—but also give us courage to confess before the pastor those sins which we know and feel in our hearts. Having confessed our sins, give us ears to hear and hearts to receive Your absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from You Yourself, not doubting but firmly believing that by it, our sins are forgiven before You in heaven; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

Lord's Supper I

Lord Jesus Christ, on the solemn night of Your betrayal, You established the Sacrament, giving us Your true body and blood under bread and wine for us Christians to eat and drink. We praise You for this wondrous testament and pray that You would lead us to eat and drink Your body and blood, trusting in Your promise alone; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

Lord's Supper II

Your holy words, Lord Jesus, "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," bestow on all who believe forgiveness of sins in which there is life with You and salvation in the resurrection of our bodies. Cause us to cling to Your words and so know that, on account of Your Passion, our sins are forgiven, our lives are redeemed from death, and our destiny in Your heavenly kingdom is made certain; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

Lord's Supper III

Lord Jesus Christ, as we eat Your holy body and drink Your holy blood, draw our hearts to trust in Your promise that Your body and blood were given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. Give us the confidence that whoever believes Your words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins"; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

Lord's Supper IV

Lord Christ, grant that we may never come to Your altar trusting in our own righteousness or reliant on our own worthiness. Fasting and bodily preparation are fine outward training to discipline the flesh, but they can never make us worthy in Your eyes. Free us from false belief and misplaced trust, and in Your mercy bring us to repentance, deliver us from doubt, and comfort

our consciences with Your forgiveness; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

DAILY PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, Your name is to be praised from the rising of the sun to its going down. Guard and bless our coming and going that our lives may be kept safe from sin and the devil and that awake or asleep we may live in the confidence that our time is in Your merciful hands; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MEAL PRAYERS

Gracious Father, in Your bountiful goodness You open Your hand to satisfy the desires of every living thing. Teach us to reverence You alone as the Giver of our daily bread and so acknowledge You with thanksgiving and praise; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

TABLE OF DUTIES

Vocations in the Church

Lord Jesus Christ, Head of Your Body, give us grace to live in Your congregation according to our callings, either as a preacher or a hearer of Your Word. Make all pastors bold to proclaim Your truth, and give all hearers faith to receive Your Word with the humility born of faith and an eagerness to honor and support those who bear the office of preaching. Amen.

Vocations in Society

Almighty and everlasting Father, You are the source of all authority so that those who bear the sword wield it as Your servants and with accountability to You. Give us the wisdom to recognize this and so live decent and peaceable lives, praying for those in public office, honoring them in word and deed, and

gladly rendering to them what is theirs even as we render to You that which is Yours alone; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Vocations in the Home and Workplace

Merciful Father, You have set the solitary in families where we may love and serve one another. We give You thanks for the gift of marriage and family. Grant that husbands and wives honor and cherish each other in lifelong fidelity. Give children the wisdom to obey their parents that it may go well with them and that they may enjoy a long life on the earth. Bless each in his or her daily work; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**A SHORT FORM OF CONFESSION
AND ABSOLUTION**

The penitent says:

Dear confessor, I ask you please to hear my confession and to pronounce forgiveness in order to fulfill God's will.

I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. In particular I confess before you that as a servant, maid, etc., I, sad to say, serve my master unfaithfully, for in this and that I have not done what I was told to do. I have made him angry and caused him to curse. I have been negligent and allowed damage to be done. I have also been offensive in words and deeds. I have quarreled with my peers. I have grumbled about the lady of the house and cursed her. I am sorry for all of this and I ask for grace. I want to do better.

A master or lady of the house may say:

In particular I confess before you that I have not faithfully guided my children, servants, and wife to the glory of God. I have cursed. I have set a bad example by indecent words and deeds. I have hurt my neighbor and spoken evil of him. I have overcharged, sold inferior merchandise, and given less than was paid for.

Let the penitent confess whatever else he has done against God's commandments and his own position. If, however, someone does not find himself burdened with these or greater sins, he should not trouble himself or search for or invent other sins, and thereby make confession a torture. Instead, he should mention one or two that he knows: In particular I confess that have cursed; I have used improper words; I have neglected this or that, etc. Let that be enough. But if you know of none at all (which hardly seems possible), then mention none in particular, but receive the forgiveness upon the general confession which you make to God before the confessor.

Then the confessor shall say:

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

The penitent affirms:

Amen.

Furthermore, the confessor shall say:

Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

The penitent responds:

Yes, dear confessor.

Then let him say:

Let it be done for you as you believe. And I, by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Go in peace.

A confessor will know additional passages with which to comfort and to strengthen the faith of those who have great burdens of conscience or are sorrowful and distressed.

This is intended only as a general form of confession.

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