

Martin Luther's Small Catechism  
*(in prayer form)*

**MONDAY**

First Commandment

O Holy Trinity, you have commanded us to have no other gods. Grant that we may fear, love, and trust in you above all things; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Second Commandment

Lord God, you have commanded us not to misuse your name. Grant that we may 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Third Commandment

Almighty God, you have commanded us to remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Grant that we may fear and love you so that we do not despise preaching and your Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Fourth Commandment

Heavenly Father, you have commanded us to honor our father and mother. Grant that we may fear and love you so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Fifth Commandment

Lord of life, you have commanded us not to murder. Grant that we may fear and love you so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sixth Commandment

Almighty God, you have commanded us not to commit adultery. Grant that we may fear and love you so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husbands and wives love and honor each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Seventh Commandment

O Lord, you have commanded us not to steal. Grant that we may fear and love you 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Eighth Commandment

Almighty God, you have commanded us not to give false testimony against our neighbor. Grant that we may fear and love you 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Ninth Commandment

Almighty God, you have commanded us not to covet our neighbor's house. Grant that we may fear and love you 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Tenth Commandment

Almighty God, you have commanded us not to covet our neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to our neighbor. Grant that we may fear and love you 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### What does God say about all these commandments?

*"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" (Exod 20:5-6)*

Almighty God, you threaten to punish all who break your commandments. Grant therefore, that we may fear your wrath and not do anything against them. But you promise grace and every blessing to all who keep your commandments. Grant, therefore, that we may also love and trust in you and gladly do what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **TUESDAY**

### First Article of the Creed

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

Almighty Father, Creator of heaven and earth, you have made me and all creatures; you have given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and you still take care of them. You also give me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. You richly and daily provide me with all that I need to support this body and life. You defend me against all danger and guard and protect me from all evil. Give me to recognize that all this you do 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 you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### Second Article of the Creed

*"And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead."*

Lord Jesus Christ, you are true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary. You have 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 your holy, precious blood and with your innocent suffering and death. Give me to believe that you did this in order that I may be your own, and live under you in your kingdom, and serve you in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as you have risen from the dead, live and reign to all eternity with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### Third Article of the Creed

*"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."*

O Holy Spirit, I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but you have called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with your gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way you call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify the whole Christian Church on earth, and keep it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. Give me to know that in this Christian Church you daily and richly forgive all my sins and the sins of all believers, and on the Last Day you will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ; for you with the Father and the Son together are worshiped and glorified, one God, now and forever.

## **WEDNESDAY**

#### Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

*"Our Father who art in heaven."*

O God, with these words you tenderly invite us to believe that you are our true Father and that we are your true children. Grant that with all boldness and confidence we may ask you as dear children ask their dear father; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### First Petition of the Lord's Prayer

*"Hallowed be Thy name."*

Dear Father in heaven, your name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray that it may be kept holy among us also. Grant that your Word may be taught in its truth and purity, and help us, as your children, to lead holy lives according to it. Protect us from anyone who would profane your name by teaching or living contrary to your Word; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer

*"Thy kingdom come."*

Dear Father in heaven, your kingdom certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray that it may come to us also. Grant us your Holy Spirit, so that by your grace we believe your holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Third Petition of the Lord's Prayer

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

Heavenly Father, your good and gracious will is done even without our prayer, but we pray that it may be done among us also. 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. And strengthen and keep us firm in your Word and faith until we die. This is your good and gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer

*"Give us this day our daily bread."*

Dear Father in heaven, you certainly give daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray that you would lead us to realize this and to receive with thanksgiving all the things that you provide for 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Fifth Petition of the Lord's Prayer

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

Heavenly Father, do 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 you 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Sixth Petition of the Lord's Prayer

*"And lead us not into temptation."*

Dear Father in heaven, you tempt no one. We pray that you would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Seventh Petition of the Lord's Prayer

*"But deliver us from evil."*

Heavenly Father, we pray that you 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 yourself in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Conclusion to the Lord's Prayer

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

Dear Father in heaven, grant that we may be certain that these petitions are pleasing to you and are heard by you. For you yourself have commanded us to pray in this way and have promised to hear us. Amen, Amen; Yes, Yes, it shall be so.

## **THURSDAY**

### Baptism, Parts I and II

*"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" (Matthew 28:19). "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).*

Merciful God, you have revealed to us that baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in your command and combined with your Word. Help us to trust that baptism works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as your words and promises declare; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Baptism, parts III and IV

*"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). "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).

Gracious Lord, certainly not just water, but your Word in and with the water of baptism forgives our sins, rescues us from death and the devil, and gives us eternal salvation. Faith trusts this Word of yours in the water. For without your Word, the water is plain water and no baptism. But with your Word it is a baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit. Grant, therefore, that by daily contrition and repentance, the Old Adam in us may be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man may daily emerge and arise to live before you in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **FRIDAY**

### The Office of the Keys

*"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).*

Lord Jesus Christ, you have given your Church on earth the special authority to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent. Give us to believe that when your called ministers deal with us by your 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 you, our dear Lord, dealt with us yourself; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### Confession

Almighty and most merciful God, you teach us that confession has two parts: first, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive 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. Grant us true repentance, that before you we may plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer, and that before the pastor we may confess those sins which we know and feel in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **SATURDAY**

### The Sacrament of the Altar, questions 1-3

*"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.' "*

Gracious God, you have given us to believe that the Sacrament of the Altar 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 drink. Grant that by these words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," we may believe 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### The Sacrament of the altar, question 4

Almighty God, certainly not just eating and drinking the Sacrament of the Altar gives us life and salvation, but the words, "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. Grant that by believing these words, we may have exactly what they say: forgiveness of sins; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### The Sacrament of the Altar, question 5

Almighty God, fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training to receive the Sacrament of the Altar. But grant especially that we may be worthy and well-prepared for it by having faith in these words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared. For the words "for you" require all hearts to believe; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **SUNDAY**

### Christian Questions with Their Answers

Prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament

*After Confession and instruction in the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the pastor may ask, or Christians may ask themselves:*

Q: Do you believe that you are a sinner?

A: Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.

Q: How do you know this?

A: From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.

Q: Are you sorry for your sins?

A: Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.

Q: What have you deserved from God because of your sins?

A: His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation. (See Rom.

6:21,23)

Q: Do you hope to be saved?

A: Yes, that is my hope.

Q: In whom then do you trust?

A: In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.

Q: Who is Christ?

A: The Son of God, true God and man.

Q: How many Gods are there?

A: Only one, but there are three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Q: What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?

A: He died for me and shed his blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

Q: Did the Father also die for you?

A: He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed his blood for me.

Q: How do you know this?

A: From the Holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by his body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.

Q: Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?

A: Yes, I believe it.

Q: What convinces you to believe this?

A: The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is my Body; Drink of it, all of you, this is my blood.

Q: What should we do when we eat his body and drink his blood, and in this way receive his pledge?

A: We should remember and proclaim his death and the shedding of his blood, as he taught us: This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Q: Why should we remember and proclaim his death?

A: First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in him be saved.

Q: What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?

A: His great love for his Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; and Ephesians 5.

Q: Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?

A: That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from him to love God and my neighbor.

Q: What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?

A: First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

Q: But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?

A: To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15 and 16 and in I John 2 and 5. Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; I Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and II Timothy 2.

### **Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers**

*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.*

*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.*