The Receptive Life

THE WEEKLY PRACTICE

Video Study Guide

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The texts from Luther's Small Catechism used here are from Triglot Concordia: The Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church: GermanLatin-English. Published as a memorial of the quadricentenary jubilee of the Reformation anno Domini 1917 by resolution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1921). These texts are in the public domain and may be freely copied.

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Introduction and Overview

The Receptive Life is ...

a spiritual framework ...
a way of thinking
a way of acting
a way of living out the Christian life
daily and weekly practices

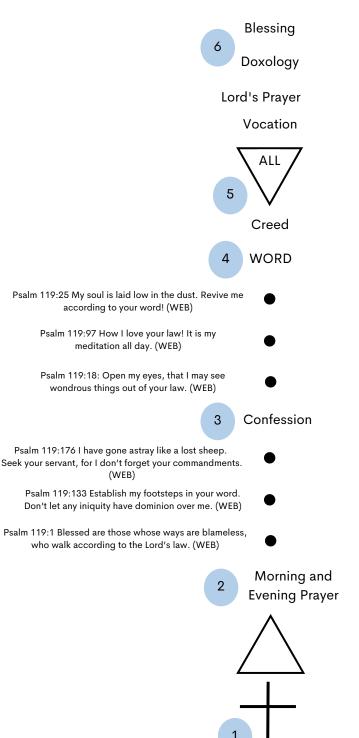
that focuses on ...

"receiving" the person and work of Jesus and "making use" of Him

A spiritual framework that will help you ...

- fight against the "unholy trinity" (devil, the world, and the sinful flesh)
- defend yourselves with the work and promises of Jesus
- receive all of the gifts that only the Triune God can give

The Daily Practice
The Weekly Practice



(WEB)

Martin Luther's Small Catechism

What do we believe?

10 Commandments, Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer

Where does the Triune God give His gifts?

Baptism, the Office of the Keys, the Sacrament of the Altar

How do we live?

Daily Prayers, the Table of Duties and Christian Vocation

Questions and Answers

What does this mean?
What is ...?
Where is this written?
What does Baptism give or profit?
How can water do such things?
What is the benefit of eating and drinking?
How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?





Station 7: The Ten Commandments (Monday)

Prepare to meditate on the Ten Commandments by saying and meditating on Psalm 119:32.

(say 7x) I run in the path of your commandments, for you have set my heart free. Psalm 119:32 (WEB)

Pause at this station and spend time meditating upon the Ten Commandments.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord Thy God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.

Honor thy father and thy mother.

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is thy neighbors.

If time allows, you can use Luther's Meaning to the Commandments in the Small and Large Catechism for further meditation.

Lesson 1: The Ten Commandments Introduction and Overview

The Ten Commandments What's love got to do with it?

Matthew 22:33-40: When the multitudes heard it, they were astonished at his teaching. 34 But the Pharisees, when they heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, gathered themselves together. 35One of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, testing him. 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?"

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 A second likewise is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." (Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18) (WEB)

	Love	
Love God		Love neighbor
1-3		4-10

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord Thy God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.

Honor thy father and thy mother.
Thou shalt not kill.
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Lesson 1: The Ten Commandments Introduction and Overview

Two Metaphors: Spiritual Diagnosis and Boundaries

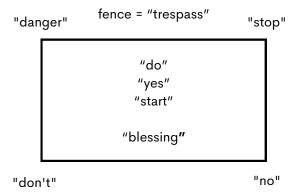
sickness and health

- examination and assessment
- diagnosis of malady
- the right medicine and the cure
- · healthy life plan

fences (around, in and out)

the Triune God is the perfect Law giver Jesus is the perfect Law keeper

2 Corinthians 5:21: "For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (WEB)



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The First Commandment Thou shalt have no other gods.

What does this mean? -Answer.

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

Small Catechism – Ten Commandments

Concordia Triglotta

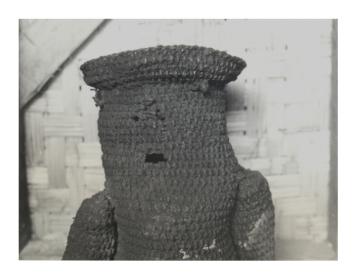
everyone has a "god" everyone believes in something

Faith always has an object.

Is the object of the faith and belief ...

- the true God?
- or a false god?





Psalm 115:1-8: Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness. Why do the nations say, "Where is their God?"

Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them. (NIV)

John 1:14-16: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. (NIV)

"under"

- The God who understands
- The God who is under the Law and wrath
- The God who crushes sin, death and Devil under his foot
- The God who has all things under his control
- The God who comes "in, with and under" the Word and Sacraments

everyone has a "god" everyone believes in something

Faith always has an object.

Is the object of the faith and belief ...

- the true God?
- or a false god?

"To whom shall we go?"
(John 6:68)

The First Commandment Thou shalt have no other gods.

What does this mean? -Answer.
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Small Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

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Small Catechism – Ten Commandments

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everyone has a "god" everyone believes in something

Faith always has an object. Is the object of the faith and belief ...

- the true God?
- or a false god?

"To whom shall we go?" (John 6:68)

"no other gods"

not first among many "alone", "only", "no other"

Psalm 81:8-10: "Hear, my people, and I will testify to you, Israel, if you would listen to me! There shall be no strange god in you, neither shall you worship any foreign god.

I am Lord, your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. (WEB-BE)

"Whatever your heart clings to, that is your god."

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

- 1] That is: Thou shalt have [and worship] Me alone as thy God. What is the force of this, and how is it to be understood? What does it mean to have a god? or, what is God?
- 2] Answer: A god means that from which we are to expect all good and to which we are to take refuge in all distress, so that to have a God is nothing else than to trust and believe Him from the [whole] heart; as I have often said that the confidence and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

Revealing Question:

What happens when you have	?

- money
- health
- power
- "control")

What happens when you don't?

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

3] If your faith and trust be right, then is your god also true; and, on the other hand, if your trust be false and wrong, then you have not the true God; for these two belong together, faith and God.

That now, I say, upon which you set your heart and put your trust is properly your god.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

trust in God alone look to Him alone expect from Him alone

the "masks" of God

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

26] For even though otherwise we experience much good from men, still whatever we receive by His command or arrangement is all received from God. For our parents, and all rulers, and every one besides with respect to his neighbor, have received from God the command that they should do us all manner of good, so that we receive these blessings not from them, but, through them, from God.

39] ... those who cling to God alone should be sure that He will show them mercy, that is, show them pure goodness and blessing, not only for themselves, but also to their children and children's children, even to the thousandth generation and beyond that. 40] This ought certainly to move and impel us to risk our hearts in all confidence with God

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

risk it all on the Triune God "no other gods"

not first among many "alone", "only", "no other"

"To whom shall we go?" (John 6:68)

The First Commandment Thou shalt have no other gods.

What does this mean? –Answer. We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Small Catechism – Ten Commandments

Concordia Triglotta

The Second Commandment. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain.

What does this mean?--Answer.

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

Small Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

the first thing to come out of the heart are words

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

50] As the First Commandment has instructed the heart and taught [the basis of] faith, so this commandment leads us forth and directs the mouth and tongue to God. For the first objects that spring from the heart and manifest themselves are words.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments

Concordia Triglotta

Psalm 50:14-15: Offer to God the sacrifice of thanksgiving.

Pay your vows to the Most High.

Call on me in the day of trouble.

I will deliver you, and you will honor me. (WEB)

the Psalms "pray, praise and give thanks"

Psalm 103:1-5: Praise the Lord, my soul!
All that is within me, praise his holy name!
2Praise the Lord, my soul,
and don't forget all his benefits ...

3 who forgives all your sins,
who heals all your diseases,
4 who redeems your life from destruction,
who crowns you with loving kindness
and tender mercies,
5 who satisfies your desire with good things,
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (WEB)

Psalm 118:1-4: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his loving kindness endures forever.

Let Israel now say that his loving kindness endures forever.

Let the house of Aaron now say that his loving kindness endures forever.

Now let those who fear the Lord say that his loving kindness endures forever. (WEB)

the first thing to come out of the heart are words

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Small Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

lies about God lies about others lies about ourselves

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

51] If, then, it be asked: How do you understand the Second Commandment, or what is meant by taking in vain, or misusing God's name? answer briefly thus: It is misusing God's name when we call upon the Lord God, no matter in what way, for purposes of falsehood or wrong of any kind.

56] For to lie and deceive is in itself a great sin, but is greatly aggravated when we attempt to justify it, and seek to confirm it by invoking the name of God and using it as a cloak for shame, so that from a single lie a double lie, nay, manifold lies, result.

Therefore this commandment enjoins this much, that God's name must not be appealed to falsely, or taken upon the lips, while the heart knows well enough, or should know, differently; as among those who take oaths in court, where one side lies against the other. 52] For God's name cannot be misused worse than for the support of falsehood and deceit.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

lies about God lies about others lies about ourselves

"making use of the name"

commending ourselves into God's hands blessing and thanksgiving at meals making the sign of the cross

Back to the 1st Commandment

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

Psalm 50:15 Call on me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you, and you will honor me. (WEB)

The Second Commandment. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain.

What does this mean?--Answer.

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Small Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

the Triune God is the perfect Law giver Jesus is the perfect Law keeper

2 Corinthians 5:21: "For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (WEB)

The Third Commandment. Thou shalt sanctify the holy-day.

What does this mean?--Answer.

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

Small Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

Colossians 2:16-17: Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. (NIV)

Matthew 11:28–30: "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (WEB)

sabbath (rest)

We rest from our work to receive the works of the Triune God.

the devil takes no sabbath

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

87] What is meant by the commandment: Thou shalt sanctify the holy day? answer: To sanctify the holy day is the same as to keep it holy. But what is meant by keeping it holy? Nothing else than to be occupied in holy words, works, and life.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

"occupied in holy words, works, and life"

Acts 2:42: They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and prayer. (WEB)

Isaiah 55:10-11: For as the rain comes down and the snow from the sky, and doesn't return there, but waters the earth, and makes it grow and bud, and gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater; 11 so is my word that goes out of my mouth:

it will not return to me void, but it will accomplish that which I please, and it will prosper in the thing I sent it to do. (WEB)

1 Timothy 4:4-5: For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with thanksgiving. 5 For it is sanctified through the word of God and prayer. (WEB)

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

At whatever hour, then, God's Word is taught, preached, heard, read or meditated upon, there the person, day, and work are sanctified thereby, not because of the external work, but because of the Word, which makes saints of us all. 92] Therefore I constantly say that all our life and work must be ordered according to God's Word, if it is to be God-pleasing or holy. Where this is done, this commandment is in force and being fulfilled.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

the devil takes no Sabbath

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

100] For let me tell you this, even though you know it perfectly and be already master in all things, still you are daily in the dominion of the devil, who ceases neither day nor night to steal unawares upon you, to kindle in your heart unbelief and wicked thoughts against the foregoing and all the commandments.

Therefore you must always have God's Word in your heart, upon your lips, and in your ears. But where the heart is idle, and the Word does not sound, he breaks in and has done the damage before we are aware.

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The Devil may be the master of 1000 arts but God and His Word are master of 100,000 more.

(paraphrase of Martin Luther)

the 1st day of the week ... a little easter

Where and to Whom Shall We Go to Receive the Medicine?

- The Scriptures
- His Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper)
- The House (the spiritual hospital) where people gather to receive Jesus and all
 of His gifts

Hebrews 10:23-25: Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NIV)

Back to the 1st Commandment

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

The Third Commandment. Thou shalt sanctify the holy-day.

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2 Corinthians 5:21: "For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (WEB)

The Fourth Commandment Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother [that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long upon the earth].

What does this mean?—Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not despise nor anger our parents and masters, but give them honor, serve, obey, and hold them in love and esteem.

Small Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

examination and assessment diagnosis of malady the right medicine and the cure healthy life plan

the "elegant order" of the commandments

Ephesians 6:1-2: Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with a promise:

"that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth." (WEB)

station + location = vocation "hands full of good works"

the three estates

fathers by blood (family) fathers by office/appointment (civil authorities) fathers by divine call (the Church)

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

108] We must, therefore, impress it upon the young that they should regard their parents as in God's stead ... they are father and mother given them by God. They are not to be deprived of their honor because of their conduct or their failings. Therefore we are not to regard their persons, how they may be, but the will of God who has thus created and ordained.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

not just love BUT honor "majesty hidden in them"

a spirit of gratitude

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

127] Besides this, it is our duty before the world to be grateful for benefits and every good which we have of our parents. 128] But here again the devil rules in the world, so that the children forget their parents, as we all forget God, and no one considers how God nourishes, protects, and defends us, and bestows so much good on body and soul ...

especially when an evil hour comes, we are angry and grumble with impatience, and all the good which we have received throughout our life is wiped out [from our memory]. Just so we do also with our parents, and there is no child that understands and considers this [what the parents have endured while nourishing and fostering him], except the Holy Ghost grant him this grace.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

a commandment with a promise

Ephesians 6:1-2: Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with a promise:

"that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth." (WEB)

the three estates

fathers by blood (family)
fathers by office/appointment (civil authorities)
fathers by divine call (the Church)

Romans 13:1-5: Let every soul be in subjection to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those who exist are ordained by God.

2 Therefore he who resists the authority, withstands the ordinance of God; and those who withstand will receive to themselves judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to the good work, but to the evil. Do you desire to have no fear of the authority? Do that which is good, and you will have praise from the same, 4 for he is a servant of God to you for good.

But if you do that which is evil, be afraid, for he doesn't bear the sword in vain; for he is a servant of God, an avenger for wrath to him who does evil. 5 Therefore you need to be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for conscience' sake. (WEB)

Back to the 1st Commandment

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

The Fourth Commandment

Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother [that it may be well
with thee and thou mayest live long upon the earth].

What does this mean?—Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not despise nor anger our parents and masters, but give them honor, serve, obey, and hold them in love and esteem.

Small Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

The Fifth Commandment Thou shalt not kill.

What does this mean?--Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need [in every need and danger of life and body].

Small Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

The Three Uses of the Law

Curb Mirror Rule and Norm

hands full of good works no need to invent

Matthew 5:21-ff: "You have heard that it was said to the ancient ones, 'You shall not murder;' and 'Whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I tell you, that everyone who is angry with his brother without a cause will be in danger of the judgment. (WEB)

Don't harm the neighbor ...

by your hands
with your tongue
in your heart
... especially your enemies.

the Two Kingdoms

the civil authorities (literal sword) the Church (the "sword of the Spirit")

Romans 13:1–5: Do you desire to have no fear of the authority? Do that which is good, and you will have praise from the same, 4 for he is a servant of God to you for good. But if you do that which is evil, be afraid, for he doesn't bear the sword in vain; for he is a servant of God, an avenger for wrath to him who does evil. 5 Therefore you need to be in subjection, not only because of the wrath, but also for conscience' sake. (WEB)

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

181] Therefore God and government are not included in this commandment, nor is the power to kill, which they have, taken away. For God has delegated His authority to punish evil-doers to the government instead of parents ... Therefore, what is here forbidden is forbidden to the individual in his relation to any one else, and not to the government.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

the reason for the commandment? the devil, the world and our own sinful flesh

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

183] But the cause and need of this commandment is that God well knows that the world is evil, and that this life has much unhappiness; therefore He has placed this and the other commandments between the good and the evil.

Now, as there are many assaults upon all commandments, so it happens also in this commandment that we must live among many people who do us harm, so that we have cause to be hostile to them.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

God, like a father, steps in and intervenes

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

184] Thus by the devil's incitement you will get many enemies who cannot bear to see you have any good, either bodily or spiritual. When we see such people, our hearts, in turn, would rage and bleed and take vengeance. Then there arise cursing and blows, from which follow finally misery and murder. Here, now, God like a kind father steps in ahead of us, interposes and wishes to have the quarrel settled, that no misfortune come of it, nor one destroy another.

And briefly, He would hereby protect, set free, and keep in peace every one against the crime and violence of every one else; and would have this commandment placed as a wall, fortress, and refuge about our neighbor, that we do him no hurt nor harm in his body.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

Don't take the matter into your own hands, commend it to God.

Romans 12:17-21: Repay no one evil for evil. Respect what is honorable in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as it is up to you, be at peace with all men. Don't seek revenge yourselves, beloved, but give place to God's wrath. For it is written, "Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord."

Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in doing so, you will heap coals of fire on his head." Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (WEB)

Don't harm the neighbor ...

by your hands
with your tongue
in your heart
... especially your enemies.

the act AND the failure to act don't ... AND do ...

Back to the 1st Commandment

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

The Fifth Commandment Thou shalt not kill.

What does this mean?--Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need [in every need and danger of life and body].

Small Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

Lesson 8: The Sixth Commandment

The Sixth Commandment. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

What does this mean?--Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may lead a chaste and decent life in words and deeds, and each love and honor his spouse.

Small Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

The Three Uses of the Law

Curb Mirror Rule and Norm

hands full of good works no need to invent

Lesson 8: The Sixth Commandment

the "elegant order" of the commandments

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

200] These commandments now [that follow] are easily understood from [the explanation of] the preceding; for they are all to the effect that we [be careful to] avoid doing any kind of injury to our neighbor. But they are arranged in fine [elegant] order.

In the first place, they treat of his own person. Then they proceed to the person nearest him, or the closest possession next after his body, namely, his wife, who is one flesh and blood with him, so that we cannot inflict a higher injury upon him in any good that is his.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

a "chaste and decent" life

act words thoughts heart

1 Corinthians 6:18–20: Flee sexual immorality! "Every sin that a man does is outside the body," but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (WEB)

Matthew 5:27-28: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery;' but I tell you that everyone who gazes at a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart. (WEB)

Lesson 8: The Sixth Commandment

marriage is God's estate

He approves of it guards it honors it

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

202] But because among us there is such a shameful mess and the very dregs of all vice and lewdness, this commandment is directed also against all manner of unchastity, whatever it may be called; 203] and not only is the external act forbidden, but also every kind of cause, incitement, and means, so that the heart, the lips, and the whole body may be chaste and afford no opportunity, help, or persuasion to unchastity. 205] Thus, to state it in the briefest manner, there is required this much, that every one both live chastely himself and help his neighbor do the same, so that God by this commandment wishes to hedge round about and protect [as with a rampart] every spouse that no one trespass against them.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

Matthew 19:4-6: He answered, "Haven't you read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall join to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh?' 6 So that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, don't let man tear apart." (WEB)

The Sixth Commandment. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

What does this mean?--Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may lead a chaste and decent life in words and deeds, and each love and honor his spouse.

Lesson 9: The Seventh Commandment

The Seventh Commandment. Thou shalt not steal.

What does this mean?--Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not take our neighbor's money or property, nor get them by false ware or dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and business [that his means are preserved and his condition is improved].

Small Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

The Three Uses of the Law

Curb Mirror Rule and Norm

hands full of good works no need to invent

Lesson 9: The Seventh Commandment

the "elegant order" of the commandments

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

223] After your person and spouse temporal property comes next. That also God wishes to have protected, and He has commanded that no one shall subtract from, or curtail, his neighbor's possessions. 224] For to steal is nothing else than to get possession of another's property wrongfully, which briefly comprehends all kinds of advantage in all sorts of trade to the disadvantage of our neighbor.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

steal/rob "taking advantage" of someone

"such a steal"
"highway robbery"
"drive a hard bargain"

Ephesians 4:28: Let him who stole steal no more; but rather let him labor, producing with his hands something that is good, that he may have something to give to him who has need.(WEB)

Lesson 9: The Seventh Commandment

not just "stealing" but the failure to protect or improve our neighbor's possessions

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

245] And, in short, if you steal much, depend upon it that again as much will be stolen from you; and lie who robs and acquires with violence and wrong will submit to one who shall deal after the same fashion with him. For God is master of this art, that since every one robs and steals from the other, He punishes one thief by means of another.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

The Triune God ... sees, know, and acts
Beware ... when cheated, the helpless take it up with the Triune God

Back to the 1st Commandment

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

The Seventh Commandment.
Thou shalt not steal.

What does this mean?--Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not take our neighbor's money or property, nor get them by false ware or dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and business [that his means are preserved and his condition is improved].

Lesson 10: The Eighth Commandment

The Eighth Commandment. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

What does this mean?--Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not deceitfully belie, betray, slander, or defame our neighbor, but defend him, [think and] speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.

> Small Catechism - Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

The Three Uses of the Law

Curb Mirror Rule and Norm

hands full of good works no need to invent

"don't"

Lesson 10: The Eighth Commandment

"false witness"

the public life (courts) spiritual matters sins of the tongue

Ephesians 4:25: Therefore putting away falsehood, speak truth each one with his neighbor. For we are members of one another. (WEB)

hands (tongue) full of good works "put the best construction on everything"

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

255] Over and above our own body, spouse, and temporal possessions, we have yet another treasure, namely, honor and good report [the illustrious testimony of an upright and unsullied name and reputation], with which we cannot dispense. For it is intolerable to live among men in open shame and general contempt.

256] Therefore God wishes the reputation, good name, and upright character of our neighbor to be taken away or diminished as little as his money and possessions, that every one may stand in his integrity before wife, children, servants, and neighbors. 273] For honor and a good name are easily taken away, but not easily restored.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

a difference between ...

knowing sin judging sin

the role of vocation (office)

Lesson 10: The Eighth Commandment

the pattern of Matthew 18

goal =reconciliation

Matthew 18:15-ff: "If your brother sins against you, go, show him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained back your brother. But if he doesn't listen, take one or two more with you, that at the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the assembly. If he refuses to hear the assembly also, let him be to you as a Gentile or a tax collector. Most certainly I tell you, whatever things you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven, and whatever things you release on earth will have been released in heaven. (WEB)

The Eighth Commandment. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

What does this mean?--Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not deceitfully belie, betray, slander, or defame our neighbor, but defend him, [think and] speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.

Small Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

the Triune God is the Law giver Jesus is the perfect Law keeper

2 Corinthians 5:21: "For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (WEB-BE)

Lesson 11: The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

The Ninth Commandment. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

What does this mean?--Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not craftily seek to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, and obtain it by a show of [justice and] right, etc., but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

The Tenth Commandment.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his.

What does this mean?--Answer.

We should fear and love God that we may not estrange, force, or entice away our neighbor's wife, servants, or cattle, but urge them to stay and [diligently] do their duty.

Lesson 11: The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

contentment vs. coveting

1Timothy 6:8–10: But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly can't carry anything out. 8 But having food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9 But those who are determined to be rich fall into a temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful lusts, such as drown men in ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some have been led astray from the faith in their greed, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (WEB)

coveting

"the unseen cancer of the heart"

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

297] For we are so inclined by nature that no one desires to see another have as much as himself, and each one acquires as much as he can ...

307] In whatever way such things happen, we must know that God does not wish that you deprive your neighbor of anything that belongs to him, so that he suffer the loss and you gratify your avarice with it, even if you could keep it honorably before the world; for it is a secret and insidious imposition practiced under the hat, as we say, that it may not be observed. For although you go your way as if you had done no one any wrong, you have nevertheless injured your neighbor ...

... and if it is not called stealing and cheating, yet it is called coveting your neighbor's property, that is, aiming at possession of it, enticing it away from him without his will, and being unwilling to see him enjoy what God has granted him.

Lesson 11: The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

contentment vs. coveting

The Close of the Commandments

- threat and a promise
- · warning and reward
- · curse and a blessing

What Does God Say of All These Commandments?

Answer.

He says thus (Exod. 20:5f): I the Lord, thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me, and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me and keep My commandments.

What does this mean?--Answer.

God threatens to punish all that transgress these commandments. Therefore we should dread His wrath and not act contrary to these commandments. But He promises grace and every blessing to all that keep these commandments. Therefore we should also love and trust in Him, and gladly do [zealously and diligently order our whole life] according to His commandments.

Back to the First Commandment Thou shalt have no other gods.

What does this mean? -Answer.

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



Station Eight

The Creed (Tuesday)

Prepare to meditate on the Creed by saying and meditating on Psalm 119:73.

(say 7x) Your hands have made me and formed me. Give me understanding, that I may learn your commandments. Psalm 119:73 (WEB)

Pause at this Station and spend time meditating upon the Apostle's Creed.

Use the Creed to focus your thoughts on the nature, the character and the work of the Triune God.

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

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come
to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrections of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

If time allows, you can use Luther's Meaning to the Creed in the Small and Large Catechism for further meditation

Lesson 1: The Creed

everyone has a "god" everyone believes in something

Martin Luther's Large Catechism

- 2] Answer: A god means that from which we are to expect all good and to which we are to take refuge in all distress, so that to have a God is nothing else than to trust and believe Him from the [whole] heart; as I have often said that the confidence and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol.
- 3] If your faith and trust be right, then is your god also true; and, on the other hand, if your trust be false and wrong, then you have not the true God; for these two belong together, faith and God. That now, I say, upon which you set your heart and put your trust is properly your god.

Large Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

faith always has an object

Is the object of the faith and belief ... the true God or a false god?

"Whatever your heart clings to, that is your god."

- · trust in the Triune God alone
- look to Him alone
- expect from Him alone

Lesson 1: The Creed

What happens when the "winds" blow?

future fear hope present sorrow joy past guilt, shame, hurt thanks, praise

Adapted from Bryan Wolfumeller's Post: The Four Winds that Blow in the Human Heart (Martin Luther's Map of Emotions) wolfmueller.co

Hebrews 13:8: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. (WEB)

John 6:68: "To whom shall we go?"

Back to the First Commandment Thou shalt have no other gods.

What does this mean? -Answer.

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

Lesson 2: Idol Hunting

everyone has a "god" everyone believes in something

In particular, Luther can teach us that: (1) the self-seeking and self-reliant self is always the greatest idol and the driving force behind other idols and (2) when we refuse to fear, love, and trust the true God we are compelled to find substitutes for him and all the work he does for us in his plan of salvation.

This means finding substitutes for the Father and his work of providence, the Son and his work of redemption, and the Holy Spirit and his work of enlightening those who believe. It also means replacing God as the goal of our life and the object of our love.

... we feel no need for the true God until we are disenchanted with the false gods we have put in his place, which we think can provide all we need.

The Unholy Trinity: Martin Luther Against the Idol of Me, Myself and I (Michael Lockwood)

faith always has an object

Is the object of the faith and belief ... the true God or a false god?

"Whatever your heart clings to, that is your god."

- trust in the Triune God alone
- look to Him alone
- expect from Him alone

Lesson 2: Idol Hunting

By nature we are self-seeking and self reliant.

s I n

When we don't fear, love and trust in the Triune God we look for substitutes. Replace the work of ...

- the Father (creation)
- the Son (redemption)
- the Holy Spirit (sanctification)

The sacred gift of suffering is "disenchantment" with the false gods.

- Where/to Whom are you going?
- Who is going to help you?
- How's that working out for you?

The Daily and Weekly Practice

looking for idols exposing their lies

revealing the True God receiving His gifts

Back to the First Commandment Thou shalt have no other gods.

What does this mean? –Answer. We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

everyone has a "god" everyone believes in something

When we don't fear, love and trust in the Triune God we look for substitutes. Replace the work of ...

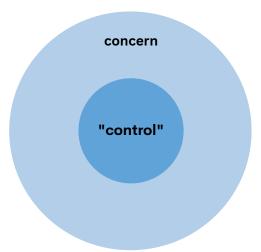
- the Father (creation)
- the Son (redemption)
- the Holy Spirit (sanctification)

Creed = Credo "I believe ..."

"... here we see that God gives Himself entire to us, with all that He has and is able to do, to aid and direct us in keeping the Ten Commandments – the Father, all creatures; the Son, His entire work; and the Holy Ghost, all His gifts."

The Large Catechism, Apostle's Creed, paragraph 69 Concordia Triglotta

we want control we want the credit



Revealing Questions About "Daily Bread"

What happens when you have	?
(money, health, power, "control")	

What happens when you don't?

Psalm 81:8-10: "Hear, my people, and I will testify to you, Israel, if you would listen to me! 9 There shall be no strange god in you, neither shall you worship any foreign god.

I am Lord, your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. (WEB)

Martin Luther Large Catechism

What does it mean to have a god? or, what is God? 2] Answer: A god means that from which we are to expect all good and to which we are to take refuge in all distress, so that to have a God is nothing else than to trust and believe Him from the [whole] heart; as I have often said that the confidence and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol.

3] If your faith and trust be right, then is your god also true; and, on the other hand, if your trust be false and wrong, then you have not the true God; for these two belong together, faith and God.

That now, I say, upon which you set your heart and put your trust is properly your god.

Back to the First Commandment

Psalm 115:1-8: Their idols are silver and gold made by the hands of men. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them. (NIV)

1st Article Idols

- self reliance
- · self praise
- · trust in the creation and not the Creator

Meaning to the First Article of the Apostle's Creed
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 limbs, my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them;

in addition thereto, clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and homestead, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods; that He provides me richly and daily with all that I need to support this body and life, protects me from all danger, and guards me and preserves me from all evil;

and all this out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I owe it to Him to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

Psalm 92:1-2: It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night ... (NIV)

The Doxology (Thomas Ken, 1674)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

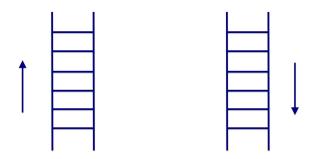
Lesson 4: The 2nd Article God the Son (Redemption)

Creed = Credo ("I believe ...")

Father – gives all of creation Son – gives all of His work Holy Spirit – gives all of His gifts

2nd Article Idols

- "rational lies" (no fault/no need)
- redemption of my own choosing/invention
- trust in my works and NOT the works of Jesus



Romans 3:20-21: Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. (NIV)

Galatians 2:20-21: I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. That life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself up for me. 21 I don't reject the grace of God. For if righteousness is through the law, then Christ died for nothing!" (WEB)

Ephesians 2:8-10: ... for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, that no one would boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we would walk in them. (WEB)

Lesson 4: The 2nd Article God the Son (Redemption)

Meaning to the Second Article of the Apostle's Creed

What does this mean?

Answer. 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 creature, purchased and won [delivered] 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,

in order that I may be [wholly] His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Small Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

The Doxology (Thomas Ken, 1674)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

Lesson 5: The 3rd Article God the Holy Spirit (Sanctification)

The Daily and Weekly Practice

looking for idols AND exposing their lies revealing the True God AND receiving His gifts

3rd Article Idols

- "my own reason"
- "my own strength"
- "my own revelation"

... the evil one will attempt to counter the true church and its true faith with a false church and a false faith. He will attempt to lead people away from worshipping Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by providing idolatrous substitutes for each of them.

Michael Lockwood, The Unholy Trinity: Martin Luther Against the Idol of Me, Myself and I

the revelation of the Triune God vs. human reason and emotion

1 Corinthians 2:11-ff: In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. (NIV)

Lesson 5: The 3rd Article God the Holy Spirit (Sanctification)

Because of the sinful nature, we are ...

"dead" in our transgressions and sins
"darkened" in our understanding
held captive by the devil
hostile toward God
"enemies"
"lost"

We must be ...

"resurrected" and "made alive"

"born again" and adopted

made "new creations"

"brought near"

"reconciled"

"enlightened"

"found"

3rd Article Idols

- "my own reason"
- "my own strength"
- "my own revelation"

Lesson 5: The 3rd Article God the Holy Spirit (Sanctification)

Meaning to the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed

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 Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith;

even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He forgives daily and richly all sins to me and all believers, and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will give to me and to all believers in Christ everlasting life.

This is most certainly true.

Small Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

The Doxology (Thomas Ken, 1674)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!



Station Nine

The Lord's Prayer (Wednesday)

Prepare to meditate on the petitions of the Lord's Prayer by saying and meditating on Psalm 119:145.

(say 7x) I have called with my whole heart. Answer me, Lord! I will keep your statutes. Ps. 119:145 (WEB)

Pause at this Station and spend time meditating upon the Lord's Prayer. Use the petitions of the Lord's Prayer to express all of the needs, desires, sighs, groans and hopes of your life.

Be assured that these petitions are heard by the Father because he has commanded us so to pray and has promised to hear us.

Our Father who art in heaven.

Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

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

Give us this day our daily bread.

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

And lead us not into temptation.

But deliver us from evil.

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

If time allows, you can use Luther's Meaning to the Lord's Prayer in the Small and Large Catechism for further meditation.

Lesson 1: The Lord's Prayer Introduction

Prayer reveals who are God is!

We pray ...

in faith by faith through faith

Psalm 50:15 Call on me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you, and you will honor me. (WEB)

The Second Commandment. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain.

What does this mean?--Answer.

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

Small Catechism – Ten Commandments Concordia Triglotta

The Lord's Prayer

Command Invitation with a Promise the Very Words and Way to Pray

Lesson 1: The Lord's Prayer Introduction

Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)

vs.

unholy trinity (devil, corrupt world, sinful flesh)

- Thy Name vs. my name
- Thy Kingdom vs. my kingdom
- Thy Will vs. my will

Our Father ... confidence and certainty

THY petitions ... US petitions ...

Amen ... confidence and certainty

Psalm 50:15 Call on me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you, and you will honor me. (WEB-BE)

Lesson 2: Our Father and Amen! Certainty and Confidence

The Lord's Prayer

Command Invitation with a Promise the Very Words and Way to Pray

Our Father ... confidence and certainty

THY petitions ... **US** petitions ...

Amen ... confidence and certainty

Psalm 50:15 Call on me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you, and you will honor me. (WEB-BE)

Our Father who art in heaven.

What does this mean? — Answer.

God would thereby [with this little introduction] tenderly urge us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true children, so that we may ask Him confidently with all assurance, as dear children ask their dear father.

Amen.

What does this mean? — Answer.

That I should be certain that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven and heard; for He Himself has commanded us so to pray, and has promised that He will hear us. Amen, Amen; that is, Yea, yea, it shall be so.

Small Catechism – Lord's Prayer Concordia Triglotta

Lesson 2: Our Father and Amen! Certainty and Confidence

We belong to the Triune God ... In our Baptism we are ...

brought out ... redeemed (Exodus) brought in ... adopted (family)

Father Brother Comforter

Matthew 7:7-11: "Ask, and it will be given you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives. He who seeks finds. To him who knocks it will be opened.

Or who is there amongst you who, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, who will give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (WEB)

Hebrews 2:11: Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. (NIV)

Hebrews 4:14-16: Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (NIV)

Lesson 2: Our Father and Amen! Certainty and Confidence

Father Brother Comforter

Hebrews 10:19-22: Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. (NIV)

Romans 8:26-27: In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. (NIV)

The Lord's Prayer

Command Invitation with a Promise the Very Words and Way to Pray

Psalm 50:15 Call on me in the day of trouble.

I will deliver you, and you will honor me. (WEB-BE)

Lesson 3: Hallowed Be Thy Name

Thy Name vs. my name Thy Kingdom vs. my kingdom Thy Will vs. my will

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean? — Answer.

God's name is indeed holy in itself; but we pray in this petition that it may become holy among us also.

Small Catechism – Lord's Prayer Concordia Triglotta

"God's name is holy in itself ..."

not holy in nature or essence BUT holy in our use

How is this done? — Answer.

When the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God also lead holy lives in accordance with it. To this end help us, dear Father in heaven. But he that teaches and lives otherwise than God's Word teaches profanes the name of God among us. From this preserve us, Heavenly Father.

Lesson 3: Hallowed Be Thy Name

Holy in teaching (words) Holy in living (works)

Who is your father?

John 8:44: You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and doesn't stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks on his own; for he is a liar, and the father of lies. (WEB)

We belong to the Triune God ... In our Baptism we are ...

brought out ... redeemed (Exodus) brought in ... adopted (family)

make right use of the name

"Abba, Father ..."
"Lord Jesus, have mercy ..."
"Come, Holy Spirit ..."

The Lord's Prayer

Command Invitation with a Promise the Very Words and Way to Pray

Lesson 3: Hallowed Be Thy Name

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean? — Answer.

God's name is indeed holy in itself; but we pray in this petition that it may become holy among us also.

How is this done? — Answer.

When the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God also lead holy lives in accordance with it. To this end help us, dear Father in heaven. But he that teaches and lives otherwise than God's Word teaches profanes the name of God among us. From this preserve us, Heavenly Father.

Lesson 4: Thy Kingdom Come

The Lord's Prayer

Command Invitation with a Promise the Very Words and Way to Pray

Holy Trinity
(Father, Son and Holy Spirit)
vs.
unholy trinity
(devil, corrupt world, sinful flesh)

- Thy Name vs. my name
- Thy Kingdom vs. my kingdom
- Thy Will vs. my will

Thy Kingdom Come.

What does this mean? — Answer.

The kingdom of God comes indeed without our prayer, of itself; but we pray in this petition that it may come unto us also.

"God's Kingdom comes in and of itself ..."

BUT we pray that it may come to us, among us and through us

How is this done? — Answer.

When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead a godly life here in time and yonder in eternity.

Lesson 4: Thy Kingdom Come

Kingdom of Power Kingdom of Grace Kingdom of Glory

Kingdom of Power

- all authority over all things, in all places, all of the time
- Matthew 28:16-20

Kingdom of Grace

- rule and reign over sin, death and the devil
- through the Gospel the "sword of the Spirit"
- Matthew 16 the keys of the Kingdom

Kingdom of Glory

- "and He shall reign forever and ever ..."
- (Revelation 21 "no more ...")

Thy Kingdom Come.

What does this mean? — Answer.

The kingdom of God comes indeed without our prayer, of itself; but we pray in this petition that it may come unto us also.

How is this done? — Answer.

When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead a godly life here in time and yonder in eternity.

Lesson 5: Thy Will Be Done

The Lord's Prayer

Command Invitation with a Promise the Very Words and Way to Pray

Holy Trinity
(Father, Son and Holy Spirit)
vs.
unholy trinity
(devil, corrupt world, sinful flesh)

- Thy Name vs. my name
- Thy Kingdom vs. my kingdom
- Thy Will vs. my will

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

What does this mean? — Answer.

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

"God's will is done indeed without our prayer..."

BUT we pray that it may be done among us

How is this done? — Answer.

When God breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will which would not let us hallow the name of God nor let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh; but strengthens and keeps us steadfast in His Word and in faith unto our end. This is His gracious and good will.

Lesson 5: Thy Will Be Done

God breaks and hinders the will of ...

the devil the world our own sinful flesh

1 John 3:8: The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. (NIV)

John 15:18-ff: "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. (NIV)

1 John 3:13: Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. (NIV)

Romans 7:21-25: So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. (NIV)

Romans 7:21-25: 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! (NIV)

Lesson 5: Thy Will Be Done

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

What does this mean? — Answer.

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

"God's will is done indeed without our prayer..."

BUT we pray that it may be done among us

How is this done? — Answer.

When God breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will which would not let us hallow the name of God nor let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh; but strengthens and keeps us steadfast in His Word and in faith unto our end. This is His gracious and good will.

Small Catechism – Lord's Prayer Concordia Triglotta

Psalm 50:15 Call on me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you, and you will honor me. (WEB)

The Lord's Prayer

Command Invitation with a Promise the Very Words and Way to Pray

Our Father ... confidence and certainty

THY petitions ... **US** petitions ...

Amen ... confidence and certainty

Psalm 50:15 Call on me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you, and you will honor me. (WEB)

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? — Answer.

God gives daily bread, even without our prayer, to all wicked men; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to know it, and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

Small Catechism – Lord's Prayer Concordia Triglotta

Matthew 5:45: For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust. (WEB)

Psalm 145:15-16: The eyes of all wait for you. You give them their food in due season. You open your hand, and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (WEB)

When we pray, we ...

ask for daily bread receive it with joy acknowledge where it comes from

What is meant by daily bread?

Everything that belongs to the support and wants of the body, such as meat, drink, clothing, shoes, house, homestead, field, cattle, money, goods, a pious spouse, pious children, pious servants, pious and faithful magistrates, good government, good weather, peace, health, discipline, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Small Catechism – Lord's Prayer Concordia Triglotta

God breaks and hinders the will of ...

- the devil
- the world
- our own sinful flesh

Martin Luther Large Catechism

But this petition is especially directed also against our chief enemy, the devil. For all his thought and desire is to deprive us of all that we have from God, or to hinder it; and he is not satisfied to obstruct and destroy spiritual government in leading souls astray by his lies and bringing them under his power, but he also prevents and hinders the stability of all government and honorable, peaceable relations on earth. There he causes so much contention, murder, sedition, and war, also lightning and hail to destroy grain and cattle, to poison the air, etc.

The 1st Article of the Creed 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 limbs, my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them;

in addition thereto, clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and homestead, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods; that He provides me richly and daily with all that I need to support this body and life, protects me from all danger, and guards me and preserves me from all evil;

and all this out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I owe it to Him to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

Small Catechism – Apostle's Creed Concordia Triglotta

the "masks" of God

Martin Luther Large Catechism

26] For even though otherwise we experience much good from men, still whatever we receive by His command or arrangement is all received from God. For our parents, and all rulers, and every one besides with respect to his neighbor, have received from God the command that they should do us all manner of good, so that we receive these blessings not from them, but, through them, from God.

Large Catechism – The Ten Commandments

Concordia Triglotta

The Doxology

(Thomas Ken, 1674)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

The Lord's Prayer

Command Invitation with a Promise the Very Words and Way to Pray

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? — Answer.

God gives daily bread, even without our prayer, to all wicked men; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to know it, and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

Small Catechism – Lord's Prayer Concordia Triglotta

Psalm 50:15 Call on me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you, and you will honor me. (WEB)

Lesson 7: Forgive Us Our Trespasses As We Forgive ...

The Lord's Prayer

Command Invitation with a Promise the Very Words and Way to Pray

Our Father ... confidence and certainty

THY petitions ... **US** petitions ...

Amen ... confidence and certainty

Justice – get what you deserve

Mercy – don't get what you deserve

Grace – get what you don't deserve

the Triune God is the Law giver Jesus is the perfect Law keeper

2 Corinthians 5:21: "For him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (WEB)

Lesson 7: Forgive Us Our Trespasses As We Forgive ...

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

What does this mean? — Answer.

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins, nor deny such petitions on account of them; for we are worthy of none of the things for which we pray, neither have we deserved them; but that He would grant them all to us by grace; for we daily sin much, and indeed deserve nothing but punishment. So will we verily, on our part, also heartily forgive and also readily do good to those who sin against us.

Small Catechism – Lord's Prayer Concordia Triglotta

Forgiveness of sins ...

Father – authored the plan of salvation Son – accomplished the plan Holy Spirit – applies/delivers/offers

Martin Luther, Against the Heavenly Prophets

"We treat of the forgiveness of sins in two ways. First, how it is achieved and won. Second, how it is distributed and given to us. Christ has achieved it on the cross, it is true. But he has not distributed or given it on the cross. He has not won it in the supper or sacrament.

There he has distributed and given it through the Word, as also in the gospel, where it is preached. He has won it once for all on the cross. But the distribution takes place continuously, before and after, from the beginning to the end of the world. For inasmuch as he had determined once to achieve it, it made no difference to him whether he distributed it before or after, through his Word, as can easily be proved from Scripture."

Lesson 7: Forgive Us Our Trespasses As We Forgive ...

Meaning to the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed

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 Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith;

even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He forgives daily and richly all sins to me and all believers, and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will give to me and to all believers in Christ everlasting life. This is most certainly true.

Small Catechism – Apostle's Creed Concordia Triglotta

The devil, the world and our own sinful flesh are ever active. They never rest!

The Triune God daily and richly forgives!

The Lord's Prayer

Command Invitation with a Promise the Very Words and Way to Pray

Psalm 50:15 Call on me in the day of trouble.

I will deliver you, and you will honor me. (WEB)

Lesson 8: Lead Us Not Into ... But Deliver Us From ...

The Lord's Prayer

Command Invitation with a Promise the Very Words and Way to Pray

Our Father ... confidence and certainty

THY petitions ... **US** petitions ...

Amen ... confidence and certainty

The devil attacks ... our faith, hope, and love

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean? — Answer.

God, indeed, tempts no one; but we pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us, nor seduce us into misbelief, despair, and other great shame and vice; and though we be assailed by them, that still we may finally overcome and gain the victory.

Small Catechism – Lord's Prayer Concordia Triglotta

We belong to the Triune God ... In our Baptism we are ...

brought out ... redeemed (Exodus) brought in ... adopted (family)

Lesson 8: Lead Us Not Into ... But Deliver Us From ...

But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean? — Answer.

We pray in this petition, as in a summary, that our Father in heaven would deliver us from all manner of evil, of body and soul, property and honor, and at last, when our last hour shall come, grant us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this vale of tears to Himself into heaven.

Small Catechism – Lord's Prayer Concordia Triglotta

The Lord's Prayer

Command Invitation with a Promise the Very Words and Way to Pray

Amen.

What does this mean? — Answer.

That I should be certain that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven and heard; for He Himself has commanded us so to pray, and has promised that He will hear us. Amen, Amen; that is, Yea, yea, it shall be so.

Small Catechism – Lord's Prayer Concordia Triglotta

Psalm 50:15 Call on me in the day of trouble. I will deliver you, and you will honor me. (WEB)



Lesson 1: The Forgiveness of Sins

Ten Commandments:

What we are to do and not do!

Apostles Creed:

What we are to believe!

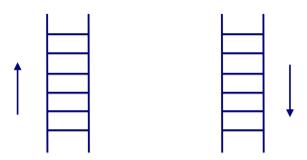
Lord's Prayer:

Why pray? How to pray? What to pray?

Baptism, the Office of the Keys and the Sacrament of the Altar

Where does the Triune God give His gifts and how do you receive the promises?

How do you know that your sins are forgiven?



"Lord, have mercy!"

"... the Gospel bids us to hold the sack open and have something given to us."

"We are beggars; this is true!" (Martin Luther)

Lesson 1: The Forgiveness of Sins

The worship and divine service of the Gospel is to receive from God gifts ... the chief worship of the Gospel is to wish to receive remission of sins, grace, and righteousness.

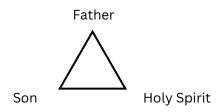
Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article III (of love and the fulfilling of the Law), paragraph 189, Concordia Triglotta

In the Scriptures and the Sacraments ...

we "receive" the person and work of Jesus
we "make use of" Him

the Trinity
(Father, Son and Holy Spirit)
vs.
the "unholy trinity"
(the devil, the world, sinful flesh

One God, Three Distinct Persons, One Salvation Plan 1-3-1



John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (NIV)

Lesson 1: The Forgiveness of Sins

Forgiveness of sins ...

Father – authored the plan of salvation Son – accomplished the plan Holy Spirit – applies/delivers/offers

Ten Commandments:

What we are to do and not do!

Apostles Creed:

What we are to believe!

Lord's Prayer:

Why pray? How to pray? What to pray?

Baptism, the Office of the Keys and the Sacrament of the Altar

Where does the Triune God give His gifts and how do you receive the promises?

How do you know that your sins are forgiven?

repent receive rejoice

(repeat)

When you have the forgiveness of sins, you have ... everything!

The worship and divine service of the Gospel is to receive from God gifts ... the chief worship of the Gospel is to wish to receive remission of sins, grace, and righteousness.

Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article III (of love and the fulfilling of the Law), paragraph 189, Concordia Triglotta

In the Scriptures and the Sacraments ...

we "receive" the person and work of Jesus we "make use of" Him

One God, Three Distinct Persons,
One Salvation Plan
1-3-1

Father

Son Holy Spirit

John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. (NIV)

John 3:36: Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, **for God's wrath remains on them**. (NIV)

Where does the Triune God give His gifts and how do you receive the promises?

How do you know that your sins are forgiven?

Martin Luther, Smalcald Articles

We will now return to the Gospel, which not merely in one way gives us counsel and aid against sin; for God is superabundantly rich [and liberal] in His grace [and goodness]. **First**, **through the spoken Word** by which the forgiveness of sins is preached [He commands to be preached] in the whole world; which is the peculiar office of the Gospel.

Smalcald Articles, III, Article IV, the Gospel Concordia (Triglotta)

Romans 1:16-17: I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." (NIV)

1 Peter 1:23-ff: For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For,

"All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you. (NIV)

Where does the Triune God give His gifts and how do you receive the promises?

How do you know that your sins are forgiven?

Martin Luther, Smalcald Articles

We will now return to the Gospel, which not merely in one way gives us counsel and aid against sin; for God is superabundantly rich [and liberal] in His grace [and goodness]. **First**, **through the spoken Word** by which the forgiveness of sins is preached [He commands to be preached] in the whole world; which is the peculiar office of the Gospel.

Secondly, through Baptism.

Thirdly, through the holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Fourthly, through the power of the keys, and also through the mutual conversation and consolation of brethren ...

Smalcald Articles, III, Article IV, the Gospel Concordia (Triglotta)

How does the Gospel (the forgiveness of sins for the sake of Christ) come to us?

read and study the Scriptures
proclaimed and heard
applied, touched and seen ("visible Gospel")
mutual conversation

What if I take away ...

When we reject (or neglect) the means ...

we reject the Holy Spirit and we reject the Gospel!

repent receive rejoice

(repeat)

When you have the forgiveness of sins, you have ... everything!

Lesson 3: Salvation Authored, Acquired, and Applied

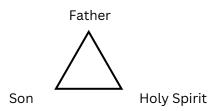
The worship and divine service of the Gospel is to receive from God gifts ... the chief worship of the Gospel is to wish to receive remission of sins, grace, and righteousness.

Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article III (of love and the fulfilling of the Law), paragraph 189, Concordia Triglotta

In the Scriptures and the Sacraments ...

we "receive" the person and work of Jesus we "make use of" Him

One God, Three Distinct Persons,
One Salvation Plan
1-3-1



Forgiveness of sins ...

Father – authored the plan of salvation Son – accomplished the plan Holy Spirit – applies/delivers/offers

Lesson 3: Salvation Authored, Acquired, and Applied

Martin Luther, Against the Heavenly Prophets

"We treat of the forgiveness of sins in two ways. **First**, how it is achieved and won. **Second**, how it is distributed and given to us.

Christ has achieved it on the cross, it is true. But he has not distributed or given it on the cross. He has not won it in the supper or sacrament. There he has distributed and given it through the Word, as also in the gospel, where it is preached.

He has won it once for all on the cross. But the distribution takes place continuously, before and after, from the beginning to the end of the world. For inasmuch as he had determined once to achieve it, it made no difference to him whether he distributed it before or after, through his Word, as can easily be proved from Scripture."

Martin Luther, Against the Heavenly Prophets

The devil, the world and our own sinful flesh are ever active. They never rest!

The Triune God daily and richly forgives!

1 John 2:1-ff: My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (NIV)

Lesson 3: Salvation Authored, Acquired, and Applied

Where does the Triune God give His gifts and how do you receive the promises?

How do you know that your sins are forgiven?

Martin Luther, Large Catechism

[55] Everything, therefore, in the Christian Church is ordered toward this goal: we shall daily receive in the Church nothing but the forgiveness of sin through the Word and signs, to comfort and encourage our consciences as long as we live here. So even though we have sins, the 'grace of the' Holy Spirit does not allow them to harm us. For we are in the Christian Church, where there is nothing but 'continuous, uninterrupted' forgiveness of sin. This is because God forgives us and because we forgive, bear with, and help one another [Galatians 6:1–2].

Large Catechism, Part II, The Apostle's Creed, Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions: Second Edition

Meaning to the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed

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 Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith;

even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He forgives daily and richly all sins to me and all believers, and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will give to me and to all believers in Christ everlasting life. This is most certainly true.

Small Catechism, The Apostles Creed Concordia (Triglotta)

Lesson 3: Salvation Authored, Acquired, and Applied

Forgiveness of sins ...

Father – authored the plan of salvation Son – accomplished the plan Holy Spirit – applies/delivers/offers

> repent receive rejoice

(repeat)

When you have the forgiveness of sins, you have ... everything!

Lesson 4: What are the Sacraments?

Where does the Triune God give His gifts and how do you receive the promises?

How do you know that your sins are forgiven?

"sacrament"

- a sacred act commanded by God
- connected to a visible element
- · containing the promise of the forgiveness of sins
- "visible Gospel"

the Sacrament of Baptism the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Some Questions:

- · What is it?
- Why do it?
- Who's idea is it? Who "instituted" it?
- Who is it for?
- · How is it to be done?
- Is it a "work"? Who's work?
- · What are the benefits?
- What does it give (if anything)?
- How do you "make use of it"?
- How is one "saved"?
- What are God's revealed and ordinary means?
- What is "necessary" for salvation?

Lesson 4: What are the Sacraments?

Christianity is a faith of "certainty"

enough? or enough!

"sacrament"

- a sacred act commanded by God
- connected to a visible element
- · containing the promise of the forgiveness of sins
- "visible Gospel"

When you have the forgiveness of sins, you have ... everything!



Station Ten

Baptism (Thursday)

Prepare to meditate on the forgiveness of sins that comes to us through the Sacrament of Baptism by saying and meditating on Psalm 119:41.

(7x) Let your loving kindness also come to me, Lord, your salvation, according to your word. Psalm 119:41 (WEB)

Pause at this Station and spend time meditating on the forgiveness of sins that comes through the sacrifice of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit through the means of grace.

Say and pray "the Jesus Prayer".

The Jesus Prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner (THE sinner)."

Remember your Baptism. Drown the Old Man in Confession. Rejoice in the New Man coming forth.

Meditate on the following Scriptures:

Romans 6:1-4 Titus 3:3-7 Matthew 28:18-20 Mark 16:15-16

If time allows, you can use Luther's Meaning to the Sacrament of Baptism in the *Small* and *Large Catechism* for further meditation.

Lesson 1: What is Baptism?

Where does the Triune God give His gifts and how do you receive the promises?

How do you know that your sins are forgiven?

Christianity is a faith of "certainty" enough? or enough!

"sacrament"

- · a sacred act commanded by God
- connected to a visible element
- · containing the promise of the forgiveness of sins
- "visible Gospel"

the Sacrament of Baptism

Some Questions:

- · What is it?
- · What's the benefit?
- Who's it for?

Lesson 1: What is Baptism?

the Sacrament of Baptism

Martin Luther's Small Catechism

What is Baptism?

Answer: Baptism is not simple water only, but it is the water comprehended in God's command and connected with God's Word.

Which is that word of God?

Answer: Christ, our Lord, says in the last chapter of Matthew: Go ye into all the world and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

What does Baptism give or profit?

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

Which are such words and promises of God?

Answer: Christ, our Lord, says in the last chapter of Mark: He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Small Catechism – Baptism Concordia Triglotta

Lesson 1: What is Baptism?

the Sacrament of Baptism

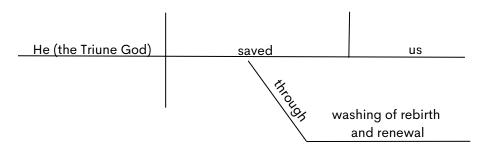
Martin Luther's Small Catechism

How can water do such great things?

Answer: It is not the water indeed that does them, but the word of God which is in and with the water, and faith, which trusts such word of God in the water. For without the word of God the water is simple water and no baptism. But with the word of God it is a baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Ghost, as St. Paul says, Titus, chapter three:

Small Catechism – Baptism Concordia Triglotta

Titus 3:4-ff: But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. 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. (NIV)



Prepositional Phrase: Adverbial Means of Manner

Lesson 2: Re-membering and Making Use of Your Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism

Marked by the Cross and the Trinitarian Invocation

What the Triune God has done! Who you are! Whose you are!

"I belong to Jesus Christ!"

The Baptismal Rite

(From Liturgy for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, The Lutheran Service Book)

"	, I baptize you in the name of the Fathe and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
"	, receive the sign of the holy cross both
upon yo	our forehead and upon your heart to mark you as
	one redeemed by Christ the crucified."

"Do you renounce the devil?" Yes, I renounce him.

"Do you renounce all his works?" Yes, I renounce them.

"Do you renounce all his ways?" Yes, I renounce them.

Lesson 2: Re-membering and Making Use of Your Baptism

the Sacrament of Baptism

Martin Luther's Small Catechism

What does such baptizing with water signify?

Answer: It signifies that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts, and, again, a new man daily come forth and arise; who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

Answer: St. Paul says Romans, chapter 6: We are buried with Christ by Baptism into death, that, like as He was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:1-ff: What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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. (NIV)

Small Catechism – Baptism Concordia Triglotta

Make Use of Jesus ...

the Cross as Sacrifice for Sin the Cross as Victory the Cross as the Christian's Way of Life

> repent receive rejoice (repeat)

When you have the forgiveness of sins, you have ... everything!



Station Eleven

The Office of the Keys (Friday)

Prepare to meditate on the forgiveness of sins that comes to us through Confession of Sins and Absolution by saying and meditating on Psalm 119:176.

(say 7x) "I have gone astray like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I don't forget your commandments." Psalm 119:176 (WEB)

Pause at this Station and spend time meditating on the forgiveness of sins that comes through the sacrifice of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit through the means of grace.

Say and pray "the Jesus Prayer" and remember the promise of Jesus in the Office of the Keys.

"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner (THE sinner)."

Meditate on the following Scriptures:

1 John 1:8—2:2 John 20:19-23

Also, comfort and console your conscience with the gift of private confession before the pastor.

If time allows, you can use Luther's Meaning to Confession and the Office of the Keys in the Small and Large Catechism for further meditation.

Lesson 1: The Office of the Keys Confession and a Life of Repentance

Where does the Triune God give His gifts and how do you receive the promises?

How do you know that your sins are forgiven?

Christianity is a faith of "certainty" enough? or enough!

The worship and divine service of the Gospel is to receive from God gifts ... the chief worship of the Gospel is to wish to receive remission of sins, grace, and righteousness.

Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article III (of love and the fulfilling of the Law), paragraph 189, Concordia Triglotta

The Keys

What is it?
What's the benefit?
Who's it for?

Matthew 16:19: I will give to you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will have been bound in heaven; and whatever you release on earth will have been released in heaven." (WEB)

remember your Baptism make use of the Office of the Keys attend the Lord's Supper

Lesson 1: The Office of the Keys Confession and a Life of Repentance

V. Confession: How Christians should be taught to confess.

What is Confession?

Confession embraces two parts: the one is, that we confess our sins; the other, that we receive absolution, or forgiveness, from the confessor, as from God Himself, and in no wise doubt, but firmly believe, that our sins are thereby forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even of those which we do not know, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. But before the confessor we should confess those sins alone which we know and feel in our hearts.

Small Catechism – Office of the Keys Concordia Triglotta

accurate diagnosis the right medicine "life"

(repeat)

1 John 1:8-10: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we haven't sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

1 John 2:1–2: My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not sin. If anyone sins, we have a Counsellor with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous. And he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. (WEB)

Lesson 1: The Office of the Keys Confession and a Life of Repentance

repent! (you're sick)

receive!

(here's the medicine)

rejoice!

(not just life eternal but faith, hope and love for today)

(and repeat)

Which are these?

Here consider your station according to the Ten Commandments, whether you are a father, mother, son, daughter, master, mistress, a man-servant or maid-servant; whether you have been disobedient, unfaithful, slothful; whether you have grieved any one by words or deeds; whether you have stolen, neglected, or wasted aught, or done other injury.

Small Catechism – Office of the Keys Concordia Triglotta

Christian Questions with Their Answers

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

When you have the forgiveness of sins, you have ... everything!



Station Twelve

The Sacrament of the Altar (Saturday)

Prepare to meditate on the forgiveness of sins that comes to us through the Sacrament of the Altar by saying and meditating on Psalm 119:175

(say 7x) Let my soul live, that I may praise you. Let your ordinances help me. Psalm 119:175 (WEB)

Pause at this Station and spend time meditating on the forgiveness of sins that comes through the sacrifice of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit through the means of grace.

Say and pray "the Jesus Prayer" and remember the promise of forgiveness that Jesus gives in the Sacrament of the Altar.

"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner (THE sinner)."

Meditate on the following Scriptures:

Matthew 26:26-29 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Finally, in preparation to receive the Sacrament of the Altar in the Divine Service, examine yourself by using Martin Luther's *Christian Questions with Their Answers* as printed in the *Small Catechism*.

If time allows you can use Luther's Meaning to the Sacrament of the Altar in the Small and Large Catechism.

Where does the Triune God give His gifts and how do you receive the promises?

How do you know that your sins are forgiven?

Christianity is a faith of "certainty" enough? or enough!

"sacrament"

- · a sacred act commanded by God
- · connected to a visible element
- · containing the promise of the forgiveness of sins
- "visible Gospel"

Forgiveness of sins ...

Father – authored the plan of salvation Son – accomplished the plan Holy Spirit – applies/delivers/offers

The worship and divine service of the Gospel is to receive from God gifts ... the chief worship of the Gospel is to wish to receive remission of sins, grace, and righteousness.

Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article III (of love and the fulfilling of the Law), paragraph 189, Concordia Triglotta

Martin Luther, Against the Heavenly Prophets

"We treat of the forgiveness of sins in two ways. First, how it is achieved and won. Second, how it is distributed and given to us.

Christ has achieved it on the cross, it is true. But he has not distributed or given it on the cross. He has not won it in the supper or sacrament. There he has distributed and given it through the Word, as also in the gospel, where it is preached.

He has won it once for all on the cross. But the distribution takes place continuously, before and after, from the beginning to the end of the world. For inasmuch as he had determined once to achieve it, it made no difference to him whether he distributed it before or after, through his Word, as can easily be proved from Scripture."

Martin Luther, Against the Heavenly Prophets

The devil, the world and our own sinful flesh are ever active. They never rest!

The Triune God daily and richly forgives!

The Sacrament of the Altar

- · What is it?
- What's the benefit?
- Who's it for?

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

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

Where is this written?

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

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

After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Take, drink ye all of it. This cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.

What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?

Answer: That is shown us in these words: Given, and shed for you, for the remission of sins; namely, 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.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Answer: It is not the eating and drinking, indeed, that does them, but the words which stand here, namely: Given, and shed for you, for the remission of sins. Which words are, beside the bodily eating and drinking, as the chief thing in the Sacrament; and he that believes these words has what they say and express, namely, the forgiveness of sins.

Small Catechism – Sacrament of the Altar Concordia Triglotta

Who, then, receives such Sacrament worthily?

Answer: Fasting and bodily preparation is, indeed, a fine outward training; but he is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: Given, and shed for you, for the remission of sins.

But he that does not believe these words, or doubts, is unworthy and unfit; for the words For you require altogether believing hearts.

Small Catechism – Sacrament of the Altar Concordia Triglotta

Christianity is a faith of "certainty"

enough? or enough!

When you have the forgiveness of sins, you have ... everything!



Station Thirteen

The Christian's Vocation (Sunday)

Prepare to meditate on your the vocation (the "calling of God") by saying and meditating on Psalm 119:35.

(say 7x) "Direct me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in them." Psalm 119:35 (WEB)

Meditate on how God works in his world through means:

The Triune God provides, saves, sanctifies, encourages, loves, feeds, teaches, creates, guides, protects, rules, heals, comforts, rebukes, punishes, dispenses justice, keeps social order, etc.

... through means.

station in life +location = vocation

Pause at this Station and spend time identifying and meditating upon all of the vocations ("callings") that God has given to you. Reflect and focus on the truth that in and through these "callings" we love God and serve our neighbor.

Spouse/Parent/Child Friends/Neighbors/Geographic Locations

(say 7x) "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105 (WEB)

If time allows, you can use Luther's Table of Duties in the *Small* and *Large Catechism* for further meditation.

Lesson 1: Vocation (The Table of Duties)

vocation = calling

What does it look like to ... love God and love the neighbor?

station + location = vocation

The Triune God ...

- · has done ...
- is doing ...
- will do ...

I am ...

I will ...

Ephesians 2:1-2: As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Ephesians 2:4-5: But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:8-9: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:10: For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV)

Lesson 1: Vocation (The Table of Duties)

What does it look like to ... love God and love the neighbor?

Morning Prayer

I thank Thee, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, that Thou hast kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray Thee to keep me this day also from sin and all evil, that all my doings and life may please Thee. For into Thy hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Thy holy angel be with me, that the Wicked Foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Small Catechism – Daily Prayers Concordia Triglotta

"That all my doings and life may please Thee"

station + location = vocation

station (the God given roles of life)

I am a ...

- husband
- father
- son and brother
- friend
- employer/employee

location (times, seasons, places)

God has placed me ...

- in a (neighborhood)
- at (place of employment)
- with (groups of people)

Lesson 1: Vocation (The Table of Duties)

Today I have an opportunity or an occasion to ...

- ask/pray
- love
- teach
- create
- act
- mourn
- plan
- "hello"
- "goodbye"
- stop
- start
- serve

- · receive
- rejoice
- surrender
- trust
- remember
- rest
- repent
- grow/learn
- fight
- solve
- confess
- anticipate

- dream/risk
- move fast
- slow down
- pause
- turn around
- suffer
- provide
- · clarify
- sow/reap
- confront
- release
- wait

"That all my doings and life may please Thee"

station + location = vocation

Ephesians 2:8-10: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (NIV)