

'Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'

13. *You believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?*  
Yes, I believe it.
14. *What induces you to believe this?*  
The word of Christ: "Take, eat, this is My body . . . Drink from it, all of you; this . . . is . . . My blood."
15. *What ought we to do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and thus receive the pledge?*  
We ought to remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: "Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."
16. *Why ought we to remember and proclaim His death?*  
That we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins but Christ, true God and man; and that we may learn to look with terror at our sins, and to regard them as great indeed, and to find joy and comfort in Him alone, and thus be saved through such faith.
17. *What was it that moved Him to die and make satisfaction for your sins?*  
His great love to His Father and to me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; Ephesians 2.
18. *Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?*  
That I may learn to believe that Christ died for my sin out of great love, as before said; and that I may also learn of Him to love God and my neighbor.
19. *What should admonish and incite a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?*  
In respect to God, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord should move him; and in respect to himself, the trouble that lies heavy on him, on account of which such command, encouragement, and promise are given.
20. *But what shall a person do if he is not aware of such trouble and feels no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?*  
To such a person no better advice can be given than that, in the first place, he put his hands into his bosom, and feel whether he still have flesh and blood, and that he by all means believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Secondly, that he look around to see whether he is still in the world, and keep in mind that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15 and 16; 1 John 2 and 5. Thirdly, he will certainly have the devil also about him, who with his lying and murdering, day and night, will let him have no peace within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; 2 Timothy 2.

# Luther's Small Catechism

As found in the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*

## 1 The Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods.  
**What does this mean?** We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your god in vain.  
**What does this mean?** We should fear and love God, so that we do not curse, swear, practice witchcraft, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.
3. You shall keep the day of rest holy.  
**What does this mean?** We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.
4. Honor your father and your mother, that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.  
**What does this mean?** We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey, love, and esteem them.
5. You shall not murder.  
**What does this mean?** We should fear and love God, so that we do no bodily harm to our neighbor, but help and befriend him in every need.
6. You shall not commit adultery.  
**What does this mean?** We should fear and love God, so that we lead a chaste and decent life in word and deed, and that husband and wife each love and honor the other.
7. You shall not steal.  
**What does this mean?** We should fear and love God, so that we do not take our neighbor's money or goods, nor get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his goods and means of making a living.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.  
**What does this mean?** We should fear and love God, so that we do not lie about, betray, or slander our neighbor, but excuse him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.  
**What does this mean?** We should fear and love God, so that we do not craftily seek to gain our neighbor's inheritance or home, or to get it by a show of right, but help and serve him in keeping it.

## 6.2 The Benefit of the Sacrament of the Altar

**What benefit do we receive from such eating and drinking?** The benefit which we receive from such eating and drinking is shown us by 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.

## 6.3 The Power of the Sacrament of the Altar

**How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?** It is not the eating and drinking that does this, but the words here written: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." These words, along with the eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament; and whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, namely, the forgiveness of sins.

## 6.4 The Proper Reception of the Sacrament of the Altar

**Who then receives this Sacrament worthily?** Fasting and bodily preparation are 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 who does not believe these words, or doubts them, is unworthy and unprepared; for the words "for you" require truly believing hearts.

# Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers

## A Morning Prayer

*In the morning, when you rise you shall make the sign of the holy cross, and you shall say:*

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

*Then, kneeling or standing, you shall say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Then you may say this prayer:*

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray You to protect me this day from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

*And then you should go with joy to your work, singing a hymn, or the Ten Commandments, or whatever your devotion may suggest.*

## An Evening Prayer

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

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

*Then, kneeling or standing, you shall say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Then you may say this prayer:*

## 3.5 The Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

**What does this mean?** God certainly gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all the wicked; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to acknowledge this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

**What is meant by daily bread?** Daily bread includes everything needed for this life, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, fields, cattle, money, goods, God-fearing spouse and children, faithful servants and rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, order, honor, true friends, good neighbors, and the like.

## 3.6 The Fifth Petition

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

**What does this mean?** We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins, nor on their account deny our prayer; for we are not worthy of anything we ask, neither have we deserved it. But we pray that He would give us everything by grace, for we daily sin much and deserve nothing but punishment; and we on our part will heartily forgive and readily do good to those who sin against us.

## 3.7 The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

**What does this mean?** God certainly tempts no one to sin, but we pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world and our own flesh may not deceive us nor lead us into misbelief, despair and other shameful sin and vice; and though we be thus tempted, that we may still in the end overcome and retain the victory.

## 3.8 The Seventh Petition

But deliver us from evil.

**What does this mean?** We pray in this petition, as the sum of all, that our Father in heaven would deliver us from every evil of body and soul, property and honor; and at last, when the hour of death shall come, grant us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

## 3.9 The Conclusion

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

**What does "Amen" mean?** Amen means that we should be sure that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven and are heard by Him; for He himself has commanded us so to pray and has promised to hear us. Amen, Amen: that is, Yes, Yes, it shall be so.

and at the last day He will  
raise up me and all the dead,  
and will grant me and all believers in Christ eternal life.

This is most certainly true.

## 3 The Lord's Prayer

### 3.1 The Introduction

Our Father, Who art in heaven.

**What does this mean?** God would hereby tenderly invite us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true children, so that we may ask Him with all boldness and confidence, as children ask their dear father.

### 3.2 The First Petition

Hallowed be Thy name.

**What does this mean?** God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be holy among us also.

**How is God's name hallowed?** God's name is hallowed when His Word is taught in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God live holy lives according to it. This grant us, dear Father in heaven! But he who teaches and lives otherwise than the Word of God teaches dishonors God's name among us. From this preserve us, heavenly Father!

### 3.3 The Second Petition

Thy Kingdom come.

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

**How does God's kingdom come?** The kingdom of God comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.

### 3.4 The Third Petition

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

**What does this mean?** The good and gracious will of God is certainly done without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done also among us.

**How is God's will done?** God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will, which would not let us hallow His name nor let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world and our own flesh; but strengthens and keeps us steadfast in His Word and in faith until our end. This is His good and gracious will.

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

*And then lie down in peace, and sleep.*

## The Table of Duties

### Pastors and Preachers

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence . . . not a novice, . . . holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. 1 Timothy 3:2-4 and 6; Titus 1:9.

### What the Hearers Owe to Their Pastors

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Heb 13:17.

Eat and drink such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Luke 10:7.

The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel. 1 Corinthians 9:14.

Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. Galatians 6:6-7.

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages." 1 Timothy 5:17-18.

### Civil Government

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Romans 13:1-4.

### Citizens

Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. Matthew 22:21.