

# A Congregation at Prayer



March 2020

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# Introduction



*Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity you are God.*

*– Psalm 90:1,2 –*

Brothers and sisters, we live in interesting times. Fear, anxiety, stress, and tension exist in society, and more than likely, the home. The kids are home from school for at the very least a few weeks. Perhaps you and/or your spouse have been asked to work from home. Or, perhaps the company or business for whom you work has been forced to shut their doors for the indefinite future. Scary, stressful times, indeed.

But the Lord continues to protect, preserve, to provide for people on earth. He still sends rain to water the crops. He keeps the earth on its axis and in its orbit around the sun. And your Fourth Petition prayers—“Give us this day our daily bread”—continues to be answered. Perhaps it has not been answered in the ways to which you are accustomed, but he provides for you and your loved ones in body and life nonetheless.

He also continues to provide for us spiritually. In his wisdom, he has continued to provide exemption for churches so that they may provide for the spiritual needs of their members. As a society, we have been blessed with readily

available digital technology that enables congregations to provide live-streamed events via the internet. And he continues to come to us through all these means—digitally and in person—through Word and Sacrament.

It's our encouragement to you, dear friends, to take this time of unrest and irregularity to perhaps establish (or re-establish!) a daily devotional life for you and your family. Throughout the ages, the church has valued the concept of "cloister." For thousands of years, Christians have "socially distanced" themselves...and not in a negative way. Christians throughout the ages have removed themselves from society—for a time—to focus and meditate on the Word, for prayer, and to offer, through worship and song, praise and thanks to God for the many blessings with which he has blessed us.

Perhaps this pandemic is an opportunity for us to follow the example of our brothers and sisters who have went before us. This booklet contains resources to do so in March 2020. A booklet will be produced with resources for April 2020 at a later date. Use it in whatever manner you may like, but here are some suggestions for how to implement a daily gathering around our family altars:

- ◆ *Establish a daily routine and structure. In a time when a sense of normalcy is in scarce supply, a routine will establish a peaceful and much-needed rhythm to life.*
- ◆ *Plan time for prayer and worship—both personally and corporately as a family or household. Sit down and actually use the set orders of service provided in this booklet. It may seem odd at first, but as you grow more and more familiar with it, it has the possibility to become something that is edifying and welcomed by all in the family.*

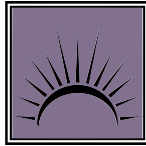
- ◆ *Connect in a way that is suitable for you and your situation with a weekly worship service. This may mean a digital connection for a time.*
- ◆ *Seek out the Lord's Supper. If you're unable to attend Sunday services, contact your pastor and he will gladly bring you the Meal.*
- ◆ *Pray. Pray corporately as a family or household. Pray privately. Seek out persons and opportunities for prayer.*
- ◆ *Take time to dig out your catechisms and/or hymnals and use them. What a better time than now to remind yourself of the mercies of God through doctrine and song.*
- ◆ *Trust in the Lord. Remind yourself and all in your family that God is still in control.*

May God bless us and keep us, as he has promised to do. May this unplanned moment of family time renew the love and grace that God blesses through parents and children. And may your time in the Word strengthen and guide you every day.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Nate Seelow & Pastor Jake Jenswold  
*Tuesday after the Fourth Sunday in Lent*

# Morning Devotion



*"My soul longs for you during the night. My spirit within me looks for you early in the morning, because when your judgments are known on earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn what righteousness is."*

*– Isaiah 26:9 –*

*The sign of the cross ✙ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.<sup>1</sup>*

**L** In the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** Amen.

**L** In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice;

**G** **in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.** *Psalm 5:3*

**L** We do not make requests of you because we are righteous,

**G** **but because of your great mercy.** *Daniel 9:18*

**L** May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;

**G** **establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.** *Psalm 90:17*

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<sup>1</sup> "In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'" (*The Small Catechism*)

**L** Let me live that I may praise you,  
**G** and may your laws sustain me.

*Psalm 119:175*

## READING

*A Scripture lesson, a portion of the Catechism, and/or another devotional selection is read.*

## LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

**G** I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend 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.

## HYMN

*The appointed hymn for the day or another hymn may be sung or said.*

## PRAYER

*The Prayer of the Day in keeping with the church year is prayed. Additional intercessions may be said using the Plan for Intercession (p. 21-22). Following all of the prayers, the group responds:*

**G** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**G** 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.**

## **BLESSING**

**L** May the grace of the Lord Jesus sanctify us and keep us from all evil; may Christ drive all hurtful things far from us and purify both our souls and bodies; may Christ bind us to himself by the bond of love; and may his peace abound in our hearts.

**G** **Amen.**

*Then go joyfully about your work for the day.*



# Evening Devotion



*"Lord, I call to you. Hurry to me. Turn your ear toward my voice when I call to you. May my prayer linger before you like incense, the lifting up of my hands like an evening offering."*

*– Psalm 141:1,2 –*

*The sign of the cross ✙ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.<sup>2</sup>*

**L** In the name of the Father and of the ✙ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** **Amen.**

*A candle may be lit.*

**L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

**G** **the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

**L** O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ,

**G** **In you the Father's glory shone.**

**Immortal, holy, blest is he,**

**And blest are you, his only Son.**

**Now sunset comes, but light shines forth;**

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<sup>2</sup> "In the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'" (*The Small Catechism*)

**The lamps are lit to pierce the night.  
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit:  
God Who dwells in the eternal light.  
Worthy are you of endless praise,  
O Son of God, life-giving Lord;  
Wherefore you are through all the earth  
And in the highest heav'n adored.**

## **READING**

*A Scripture lesson, a portion of the Catechism, and/or another devotional selection is read.*

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

**G I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## HYMN

*The appointed hymn for the day or week or an evening hymn may be sung or said.*

## PRAYER

**L** Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*A Prayer of the Day in keeping with the church year may be prayed. Additional intercessions may be said using the Plan for Intercession (p. 21-22). Following all of the prayers, the group responds:*

**G** Amen.

## LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

**G** I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend 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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**G** 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.**

**BLESSING**

**L** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ✝, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

**G** **Amen.**

*Then go to bed with peace and in good cheer.*



# Daily Lectionary



*"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (singing and making music with your hearts to the Lord), by always giving thanks for everything to God the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

*– Ephesians 5:19,20 –*

## Readings & Hymns

### **MARCH 19**

Matthew 6:25-34

*Small Catechism: First Commandment & Meaning*

*God Loves Me Dearly*

### **MARCH 20**

Romans 8:28-39

*Small Catechism: Second Commandment & Meaning*

*God Loves Me Dearly*

### **MARCH 21**

Mark 4:35-41

*Small Catechism: Third Commandment & Meaning*

*God Loves Me Dearly*

## **MARCH 22**

Philippians 4:4-7

*Small Catechism: Fourth Commandment & Meaning*

CW 444 — *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*

## **MARCH 23**

Exodus 14:10-14

*Small Catechism: Fifth Commandment & Meaning*

CW 444 — *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*

## **MARCH 24**

2 Kings 6:8-19

*Small Catechism: Sixth Commandment & Meaning*

CW 444 — *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*

## **MARCH 25**

Proverbs 29:25

*Small Catechism: Seventh Commandment & Meaning*

CW 200 — *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

## **MARCH 26**

Isaiah 35:3-4

*Small Catechism: Eighth Commandment & Meaning*

CW 200 — *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

**MARCH 27**

Isaiah 41:8-14

*Small Catechism: Ninth Commandment & Meaning*

*CW 200 – A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

**MARCH 28**

Lamentations 3:55-58

*Small Catechism: Tenth Commandment & Meaning*

*CWS 768 – How Firm a Foundation*

**MARCH 29**

Daniel 6:16-23

*Small Catechism: Conclusion & Meaning*

*CWS 768 – How Firm a Foundation*

**MARCH 30**

Matthew 10:26-31

*Small Catechism: First Article & Meaning*

*CWS 768 – How Firm a Foundation*

**MARCH 31**

Luke 10:38-42

*Small Catechism: Second Article & Meaning*

*CW 439 – Lord, Take my Hand and Lead Me*



# Prayers of the Day

## **PRAYER FOR MARCH 15-21**

Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **PRAYER FOR MARCH 22-28**

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **PRAYER FOR MARCH 29-APRIL 4**

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



# Hymns



"Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things."

— Psalm 98:1 —

## God Loves Me Dearly

August D. Rische, 1852, composite translation

German tune

*J=92*

1. God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal - va - tion, God loves me  
2. I was in slav - ery, Sin, death, and dark - ness, God's love was  
3. He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re - deem - er, He sent forth  
4. Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did of - fer; Je - sus, my  
5. Now I will praise You, O Love E - ter - nal, Now I will

*Refrain*

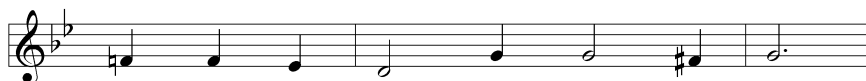
dear - ly, Loves ev - en me.  
wor - king To make me free. There - fore I'll say a - gain, God loves me  
Je - sus And set me free.  
Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.  
praise You All my life long.

dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves ev - en me.

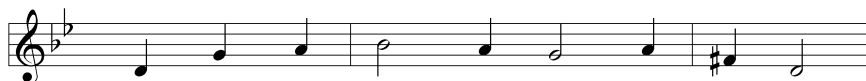
## If You But Trust in God to Guide You



1 If you but trust in God to guide you  
 2 How can these anxious worries aid you,  
 3 Be patient and wait his lei - sure,  
 4 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing,



And place your con - fi - dence in him,  
 These nev - er - ceas - ing moans and sighs?  
 In cheer - ful hope, with heart con - tent;  
 Per - form your du - ties faith - ful - ly,



He'll give you strength and stand be - side you  
 Will not his wings of mer - cy shade you  
 Then take what - e'er your Fa - ther's plea - sure  
 And trust his Word; though un - de - serv - ing,



When days are drear - y, dark, and dim.  
 When - ev - er trou - bled times a - rise?  
 And his dis - cern - ing love have sent.  
 You'll find his prom - ise true to be.



For those who trust his change - less love  
 Our cross and tri - als do but press  
 Doubt not; your in - most wants are known  
 God nev - er yet for - sook in need



Build on the rock that does not move.  
 The heav - ier for our bit - ter - ness.  
 To him who chose you for his own.  
 The soul that trust - ed him in - deed.

Text: Georg C. Neumark, 1621–81, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT (98 98 88) Georg C. Neumark, 1621–81.

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A trust - y shield  
 2 With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss  
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, All ea - ger to  
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main, Nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; He helps us free from ev - 'ry need  
 ef - fect - ed. But for us fights the val - iant one  
 de - vour us, We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;  
 have for it; He's by our side up - on the plain



That has us now o'er-tak - en. The old  
 Whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,  
 They shall not o - ver-pow'r us. This world's  
 With his good gifts and Spir - it. And do



e - vil foe Now means dead - ly woe;  
 "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,  
 prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,  
 what they will— Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—



Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;  
 The al - might - y Lord. And there's no oth - er God;  
 He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!  
 Though all may be gone, Our vic - to - ry is won;



On earth is not his e - qual.  
 He holds the field for - ev - er.  
 One lit - tle word can fell him.  
 The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

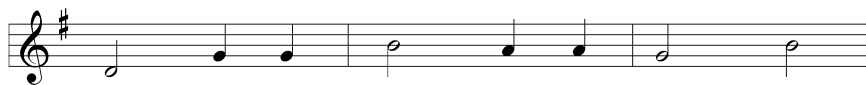
Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite.  
 Tune: EIN FESTE BURG (87 87 55 56 7) Martin Luther, 1483–1546.



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints  
 2 "Fear not! I am with you. Oh, be  
 3 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned  
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path -  
 5 "Through - out all their life - time my peo -



of the Lord, Is laid for your  
 not dis - mayed; For I am your  
 for re - pose; I will not, I  
 way shall lie, My grace all - suf -  
 ple shall prove My sov' - reign, e -



faith in his ex - cel - lent Word! What  
 God and will still give you aid; I'll  
 will not, de - sert to his foes. That  
 fi - cient shall be your sup - ply. The  
 ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love, And



more can he say than to you  
 strength - en you, help you, and cause  
 soul, though all hell should en - deav -  
 flames will not hurt you; I on -  
 then, when gray hair shall their tem -



he has said Who un - to the  
 you to stand, Up - held by my  
 or to shake, I'll nev - er, no  
 ly de - sign Your dross to con -  
 ples a - dorn, Like lambs they shall



Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.  
nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!  
sume and your gold to re - fine.  
still on my shoul - ders be borne.”

*The beloved words of this hymn are wed to its traditional American melody.*

Text: *A Selection of Hymns*, London, 1787, alt.

Tune: FOUNDATION (11 11 11 11) Traditional American melody; Caldwell's *Union Harmony*, 1837.

## 439 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me



1 Lord, take my hand and lead me Up - on life's way;  
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;  
3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en And night has come,



Di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me From day to day.  
For you, the Rock of A - ges, Are al - ways near.  
I know that you will strength - en My steps toward home,



With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;  
Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,  
And noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!

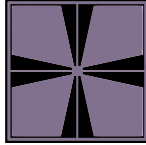


So take my hand, O Sav - ior, And lead the way.  
For when your hand is guid - ing, In peace I go.  
So take my hand and lead me Un - to the end.

Text: Julie K. von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, Minneapolis, 1978. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

Tune: SO NIMM DENN MEINE HÄNDE (74 74 D) P. Friedrich Silcher, 1789–1860.

# Plan for Intercession



*"First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people."*

*– 1 Timothy 2:1 –*

## **SUNDAY**

For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.

## **MONDAY**

For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

## **TUESDAY**

For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.

## **WEDNESDAY**

For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

## **THURSDAY**

For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, staff ministers, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and right use of the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

## **FRIDAY**

For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

## **SATURDAY**

For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.





# Personal Prayers



*"Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."*

*– Philippians 4:6 –*

## **FOR GOD'S CREATION**

Lord God, open my eyes to the beauty of your created world. You made all things to nourish my life and to fill me with wonder and joy. Open my mouth to praise and thank you for your gifts.

## **FOR GOD'S LOVE**

God our Father, your Son welcomed all who came to him, even the outcasts and despised. Give me a faith that dares to come to you, trusting only in your love. Give me a love that accepts others, as I have been accepted by you.

## **FOR FAITH**

O Holy Spirit, come to me with your comforting Word, which alone can drive away my doubts. Direct me to my Savior, Jesus, that I may trust in him with my whole heart.

## **FOR FORGIVENESS**

Lord God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Forgive my open sins and my secret sins. Forgive the sins I know and the sins I do not know. Forgive the sins I did to please myself and the sins I did to please others. Forgive them all, gracious Lord, for Jesus' sake.

## **FOR PATIENCE**

Lord Jesus, you promised to comfort those who mourn and to satisfy those who hunger. In time of trial remind me of your cross, where you endured the curse of my sin. When I am weak, teach me to depend on you for strength. At your own time, deliver me from suffering and distress.

## **FOR OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WILL**

Lord God, give me strength and willingness to say with your Son, "Not my will but your will be done." Make me cheerful and trusting to bear whatever you let happen to me. From your hand I am willing to take the good and the bad, the joy and the sorrow. Keep me from sin, gracious Father, and comfort me with your kind Word.

## **FOR THE FAMILY**

Heavenly Father, thank you for my home and family, for love and gentleness, for laughter enjoyed and sorrows shared, for daily bread. Help me to be mindful of all your gifts and to rejoice in your goodness. May your peace be with us and your presence protect us.

## **FOR A MARRIAGE**

O God of tenderness and strength, bless our home and our love, our comings and our goings. Keep us from growing weary in doing good, and sustain us in the hour of trouble. Help us deal tenderly with each other, and knit our lives together in love for you and one another.

## **FOR PASTORS**

O ascended Lord, thank you for the gift of pastors to feed your flock. Enable them, by the power of the Spirit, to stand firm in the midst of the trials and stresses of this world. Give them the courage to speak your Word faithfully and the grace to reflect your love in their actions.

## **FOR THE GOVERNMENT**

Lord of all nations, I praise you for the blessings you have showered on my country. Guide and guard your representatives in government as they care for the needs of all citizens. Give them wisdom to rule our society with honesty and justice, that we may have peace in our lives and opportunities to witness to your love.

## **FOR PEACE AMONG NATIONS**

O God, my Father in heaven, bless every effort to establish peace among the nations of the world. Give wisdom and strength to those who lead, guide those who make decisions, and transform the hearts of people everywhere to exalt peace above war, justice above gain, and honor above glory.

## **FOR LOVE OF OTHERS**

Lord Jesus, teach me to love others as you have loved me. Help me be more patient and alert to the needs of others, and always ready to serve them with the gifts you have given me.

Lord God, hear me as I speak to you about those near and dear:

For all who travel: keep them safe.

For all who are sick: heal them and make them strong.

For all who are in pain: allow them to have relief.

For all who are discouraged: let someone bring them cheer.

For all who mourn losses: grant them understanding and recovery.

For all who feel their hopes have been dashed through death: be the strong arm they need through Christ, who suffered death and rose again.

Dear Lord, let them know that nothing can separate them from your love in Christ Jesus.

## **FOR THE POOR AND HUNGRY**

Compassionate Savior, too often I forget how many in our world are homeless, poor, and hungry. In your mercy relieve their suffering and pain. Remind me that when I help a person in need I am serving you.

## **IN TIME OF TROUBLE**

O Lord, you promise that in all things you work for the good of those who love you. Help me see your loving hand in this time of trouble. Save me from doubt, relieve my anguish, and lead me through these dark days with the light of your presence.

## **FOR OTHERS IN TROUBLE**

O Lord, be gracious and kind to all who are in trouble. Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, and give your strength to those who are weary and weak. Do what is best for them according to your gracious will, and keep them faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **WHEN THERE IS STRIFE**

O Lord, it grieves me that anger, strife, and bitterness have become a part of my life. Forgive my sins and renew my spirit so that I will pardon others, correct the mistakes I have made, and be more cheerful toward those around me. Remind me through your Word that your Son's peace provides the needed hope and reason for healing and change.

## **WHEN SICK**

Great Physician of body and soul, be gracious and kind to all who are in trouble. Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, and give your strength to those who are weary and weak. Do what is best for them according to your gracious will, and keep them faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray especially for my cousin, who was injured in a car accident. If it is your will, let these days pass quickly. Guide the hands of those who care for him, and give him confidence in their skills. If he must continue to suffer, grant him the comfort of knowing that you will allow nothing to happen to him which is not for his eternal good.

Help us all see your loving hand in this time of trouble. Save us from doubt, relieve our anguish, and lead us through these dark days with the light of your presence. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## **FOR THE SICK**

Almighty Father, giver of life and health, I pray for \_\_\_\_\_ and for all who are sick and suffering. Grant that in the midst of pain they may be comforted by your presence and sustained by your love. If it be your gracious will, restore them to health.

## **ON RECOVERING FROM ILLNESS**

Lord of my life, in the day of trouble, I called to you and you delivered me. Receive my humble thanks. Bless those who prayed for me and those who served me in my time of illness. Enable me to use all my days in grateful praise and service.

## **IN THE MORNING**

Almighty God, you divide the day from the night. Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet in the way of peace. And having done your will with cheerfulness while it is day, grant that when evening comes, we may rejoice in giving you thanks.

Grant us, O Lord, to live this day in gladness and peace, without stumbling and without stain, that reaching the evening victorious over all temptation, we may praise you, the eternal God, for you govern all things and are praised now and forever.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the rest of the past night and for the gift of a new day with its opportunities for pleasing you. Grant that we may pass its hours in the freedom of your service and, when evening comes, give you thanks again.

## IN THE EVENING

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who watch or work or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, pity the afflicted, soothe the suffering, bless the dying—and all for your love's sake.

O God our Father, by your mercy and might, the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection, we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender.

O Lord, support us all the day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last.



# Small Catechism



## The Ten Commandments

### THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

**You shall have no other gods.**

*What does this mean?*

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

### THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

**You shall misuse the name of the Lord your God.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, or use witchcraft, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

### THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

**Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.



## **THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT**

**Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents and others in authority, but honor, serve, and obey them, and give them love and respect.

## **THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT**

**You shall not murder.**

*What does this mean?*

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

## **THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT**

**You shall not commit adultery.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

## **THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT**

**You shall not steal.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor's money or property, or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.

## **THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT**

**You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

## **THE NINTH COMMANDMENT**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or obtain it by a show of right, but do all we can to help him keep it.

## **THE TENTH COMMANDMENT**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, workers, animals, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

*What does this mean?*

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

## **THE CONCLUSION TO THE COMMANDMENTS**

*What does God say about all these commandments?*

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

thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. Therefore we should fear his anger and not disobey what he commands.

But he promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore we should love and trust in him and gladly obey what he commands.

## The Creed

### THE FIRST ARTICLE

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

*What does this mean?*

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

## **THE SECOND ARTICLE**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

*What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

## **THE THIRD ARTICLE**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*What does this mean?*

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

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

This is most certainly true.