

# Memory Cards

## Luther's Small Catechism



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## The Ten Commandments

### *Introduction*

I am the LORD thy God.

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## The First Commandment

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

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## The First Commandment

*What does this mean?*

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

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## The Second Commandment

Thou shalt not take the Name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.

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## The Second Commandment

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive, by His Name, but call upon Him in every time of need and worship Him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

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## The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

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## The Third Commandment

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise His Word and the preaching of the same, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

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## The Fourth Commandment

Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

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## The Fourth Commandment

*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 respect them.

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## The Fifth Commandment

Thou shalt not kill.

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## The Fifth Commandment

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do our neighbor no bodily harm nor cause him any suffering, but help and befriend him in every need.

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## The Sixth Commandment

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

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## The Sixth Commandment

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we lead a chaste and pure life in word and deed, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

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## The Seventh Commandment

Thou shalt not steal.

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## The Seventh Commandment

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not rob our neighbor of his money or property, nor bring them into our possession by unfair dealing or fraud, but help him to improve and protect his property and living.

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## The Eighth Commandment

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

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## The Eighth Commandment

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not deceitfully lie about, betray, backbite, nor slander our neighbor, but defend him, speak well of him, and put the most charitable construction on all that he does.

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## The Ninth Commandment

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

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## The Ninth Commandment

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not seek by craftiness to gain possession of our neighbor's inheritance or home, nor obtain them under pretense of a legal right, but assist and serve him in keeping the same.

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## The Tenth Commandment

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

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## The Tenth Commandment

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God so that we do not estrange or entice away our neighbor's wife, servants, or cattle, but seek to have them remain and fulfill their duty to him.

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## The Ten Commandments

### The Conclusion

*What does God say of all these Commandments?*

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.

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## The Ten Commandments

### The Conclusion

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. We should, therefore, fear His wrath, and in no way disobey them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep them. We should, therefore, love Him, trust in Him, and gladly keep His commandments.

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## The First Article

### Of Creation

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

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## The First Article

### *What does this mean?*

I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul, together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property; that He daily provides abundantly for all the needs of my life, protects me from all danger, and guards and keeps me from all evil; and that He does this purely out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all of which I am in duty bound to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

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## The Second Article

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

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## The Second Article

### *What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

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## The Third Article

### On Sanctification

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church, The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the Life everlasting. Amen.

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## The Third Article

### *What does this mean?*

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith; in like manner as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in this Christian Church, He daily forgives abundantly all my sins and the sins of all believers, and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead and will grant everlasting life to me and to all who believe in Christ. This is most certainly true.

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## The Lord's Prayer

### The Introduction

Our Father, who art in heaven.

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## The Lord's Prayer

### The Introduction

*What does this mean?*

God thereby tenderly encourages us to believe that He is truly our Father and that we are truly His children, so that we may boldly and confidently come to Him in prayer, even as beloved children come to their dear father.

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## The First Petition

Hallowed be Thy Name.

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## The First Petition

*What does this mean?*

God's Name is indeed holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be hallowed also among us.

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## The First Petition

*How is this done?*

When the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we as God's children lead holy lives in accordance with it. This grant us, dear Father in heaven! But whoever teaches and lives otherwise than God's Word teaches profanes the Name of God among us. From this preserve us, heavenly Father!

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## The Second Petition

Thy kingdom come.

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## The Second Petition

*What does this mean?*

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

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## The Second Petition

*How is this done?*

When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and live a godly life here on earth and in heaven forever.

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## The Third Petition

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

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## The Third Petition

What does this mean?

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

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## The Third Petition

*How is this done?*

When God destroys and brings to nothing every evil counsel and purpose of the devil, the world, and our own flesh, which would hinder us from hallowing His Name and prevent the coming of His kingdom; and when He strengthens us and keeps us steadfast in His Word and in faith, even unto our end. This is His good and gracious will.

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## The Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

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## The Fourth Petition

*What does this mean?*

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

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## The Fourth Petition

*What is meant by daily bread?*

Everything that is required to satisfy our bodily needs such as food and clothing, house and home, fields and Hocks, money and goods; pious parents, children, and servants; godly and faithful rulers, good government; seasonable weather, peace and health; order and honor; true friends, good neighbors, and the like.

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## The Fifth Petition

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

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## The Fifth Petition

*What does this mean?*

We pray in this petition that our heavenly Father would not regard our sins nor because of them deny our prayers; for we neither merit nor are worthy of those things for which we pray; but that He would grant us all things through grace, even though we sin daily and deserve nothing but punishment. And certainly we, on our part, will heartily forgive and gladly do good to those who may sin against us.

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## The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

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## The Sixth Petition

What does this mean?

God indeed tempts no one to sin; but we pray in this petition that God would so guard and preserve us that the devil, the world, and our own flesh may not deceive us nor lead us into error and unbelief, despair, and other great and shameful sins; but that when so tempted, we may finally prevail and gain the victory.

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## The Seventh Petition

But deliver us from evil.

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## The Seventh Petition

*What does this mean?*

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our heavenly Father would deliver us from all manner of evil, whether it affect body or soul, properly or reputation, and at last, when the hour of death shall come, grant us a blessed end and graciously take us from this world of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

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## The Lord's Prayer

### The Conclusion

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

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## The Lord's Prayer

### The Conclusion

*What does the word "Amen" mean?*

It means that 1 should be assured that these petitions are acceptable to our heavenly Father and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this manner and has promised to hear us. Amen, Amen, that is, Yes, Yes, it shall be so.

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## I. What is Baptism?

Baptism is not simply water, but it is the water used according to God's command and connected with God's Word.

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## I. What is Baptism?

*What is this word of God?*

It is the word of our Lord Jesus Christ, as recorded in the last chapter of Matthew: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

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## II. What gifts or benefits does Baptism bestow?

Baptism works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe, as the word and promise of God declare.

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## II. What gifts or benefits does Baptism bestow?

*What is this word and promise of God?*

It is the word of our Lord Jesus Christ, as recorded in the last chapter of Mark: “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”

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## III. How can water do such great things?

It is not the water, indeed, that does such great things, but the Word of God, connected with the water, and our faith which relies on that Word of God. For without the Word of God, it is simply water and no baptism. But when connected with the Word of God, it is a baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says to Titus, in the third chapter: “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior; so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy statement.”

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## IV. What does such baptizing with water signify?

It signifies that the old Adam in us, together with all sins and evil lusts, should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance and be put to death; and that the new man should daily come forth and rise to live before God in righteousness and holiness forever.

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## IV. What does such baptizing with water signify?

*Where is it so written?*

St. Paul writes in the sixth chapter of the Epistle to the Romans: “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

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## IV. What does such baptizing with water signify?

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## What is Confession?

Confession consists of two parts: the one is that we confess our sins; the other, that we receive absolution or forgiveness from the pastor as from God Himself, in no way doubting, but firmly believing that our sins are thereby forgiven before God in heaven.

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## What sins should we confess?

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

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## What are such sins [that we should confess]?

Here examine yourself in the light of the Ten Commandments, whether as father or mother, son or daughter, master or servant, you have been disobedient, unfaithful, slothful, ill-tempered, unchaste, or quarrelsome, or whether you have injured anyone by word or deed, stolen, neglected or wasted anything, or done any other evil.

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## I. What is the sacrament of the altar?

It is the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, given unto us Christians to eat and to drink, as it was instituted by Christ Himself.

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## I. What is the sacrament of the altar?

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

“Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, ‘Take, eat; this is My Body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of Me.’

“In the same manner, also, when He had eaten, He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, ‘Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins; this do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’”

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## II. What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?

It is pointed out in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” Through these words, the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given unto us in the Sacrament. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

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### III. How can the bodily eating and drinking produce such great benefits?

The eating and drinking, indeed, do not produce them, but the words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” For besides the bodily eating and drinking, these words are the chief thing in the Sacrament; and anyone who believes them has what they say and declare, namely, the forgiveness of sins.

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### IV. Who, then, receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are indeed a good outward discipline, but that person is truly worthy and well prepared who believes these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” But anyone who does not believe these words or who doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require truly believing hearts.

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### Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me through the night from all harm and danger. I pray that You would keep me this day from all sin and evil, that in all my thoughts and words and deeds I may serve and please You. Into Your hands I commend my body and soul and all that is mine. Let Your holy angels be with me, that the evil one may have no power over me. This I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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## Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me through this day. I pray that You would forgive me all my sin and the wrong that I have done. By Your great mercy, keep me this night from all harm and danger. Into Your hands I commend my body and soul and all that is mine. Let Your holy angels be with me, that the evil one may have no power over me. This I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

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## Blessing before Meals

The eyes of all wait upon thee, O Lord, and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. Amen, (from Psalm 145:15-16 KJV)

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

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## Thanksgiving after Meals

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for his mercy endureth for ever. Amen, (from Psalm 106:1 KJV)

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You for all Your gifts, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

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