

Schedule for Reciting the Catechism Daily

Sunday: The Ten Commandments; The Apostles' Creed; and The Lord's Prayer.

Monday: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism; The Office of the Keys and Confession; and The Sacrament of the Altar

Tuesday: Morning & Evening Prayer; and Asking a Blessing & Returning Thanks

Wednesday: Table of Duties—To Bishops, Pastors, & Preachers; What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors; For Civil Government; and What Subjects Owe to the Magistrates

Thursday: Table of Duties—For Husbands; For Wives; For Parents; For Children; For Male and Female Servants, Hired Men & Laborers; For Master and Mistresses; For Young Persons in General; For Widows; and For All in Common

Friday: How People Should Be Taught to Confess

Saturday: Christian Questions with Their Answers

**Dr. Martin
Luther's
Small
Catechism**

Reciting the Catechism

I. The Ten Commandments

P: The Ten Commandments; as the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household.

P: What is the First Commandment?

C: You shall have no other gods.

P: What does this mean?

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

P: What is the Second Commandment?

C: You shall not misuse the Name of your God.

P: What does this mean?

C: 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.

P: What is the Third Commandment?

C: You shall sanctify the Day of Rest.

P: What does this mean?

C: 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.

P: What is the Fourth Commandment?

C: You shall honor your father and your mother.

P: What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God so that we do not despise our parents and lords, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and esteem them.

Third, you will certainly have the devil also around you, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let you have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16, 1 Peter 5, Ephesians 6, and 2 Timothy 2.

P: Please show me what is said about all these questions and answers.

C: Note. These questions and answers are no child's play, but are drawn up with great earnestness of purpose by the venerable and devout Dr. Luther for both young and old. Let each one pay attention and consider it a serious matter, for St. Paul writes to the Galatians in chapter six: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked."

P: 16. Why should we remember and proclaim His death?

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

P: 17. What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?

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

P: 18. Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?

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

P: 19. What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?

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

P: 20. But what shall we do if we feel no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?

C: No better advice can be given than this: First, touch your body to see if you still have flesh and blood. Then believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Second, you should look around to see whether you are still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5.

P: What is the Fifth Commandment?

C: You shall not murder.

P: What does this mean?

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

P: What is the Sixth Commandment?

C: You shall not commit adultery.

P: What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God so that we lead a chaste and decent life in word and deed, and each one love and honor his spouse.

P: What is the Seventh Commandment?

C: You shall not steal.

P: What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or property, nor get them by false merchandising or dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and income.

P: What is the Eighth Commandment?

C: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

P: What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or harm his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

P: What is the Ninth Commandment?

C: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

P: What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God so that we do not cheat our neighbor out of his inheritance or house, using a pretense of

legality to obtain it, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

P: What is the Tenth Commandment?

C: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, his manservant, maidservant, or livestock, or anything that is his.

P: What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God so that we do not alienate or drive away our neighbor's wife, servants, or livestock, or persuade them to forsake him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

P: What does God say about all of these Commandments?

C: He says, "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, Who visits the sin of the fathers upon their children who hate Me, to the third and fourth generation. But to those who love Me and keep My commandments I do good for a thousand generations."

P: What does this mean?

C: God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly act according to His commandments.

P: 10. Did the Father also die for you?

C: He did not; for the Father is God only, the Holy Ghost likewise; but the Son is true God and true man; He died for me and shed His blood for me.

P: 11. How do you know this?

C: From the holy Gospel and from the words of the Sacrament, and by His Body and Blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.

P: 12. How do those words read?

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

In the same way also He took the Cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this Cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P: 13. You believe, then, that the true Body and Blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?

C: Yes, I believe it.

P: 14. What convinces you to believe this?

C: The word of Christ, Take, eat, this My + Body; Drink of it, all of you, this is My + Blood.

P: 15. What ought we to do when we eat His Body and drink His Blood, and this way receive His pledge?

C: We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His Blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

X. Christian Questions with Their Answers

P: Christian questions with their answers drawn up by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament.

P: Please show me how one should examine oneself before receiving the Sacrament.

C: After Confession and instruction in the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Holy Supper, the pastor may ask, or one may ask himself:

P: 1. Do you believe that you are a sinner?

C: Yes, I believe it; I am a sinner.

P: 2. How do you know this?

C: From the Ten Commandments; these I have not kept.

P: 3. Are you also sorry for your sins?

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

P: 4. What have you deserved of God by your sins?

C: His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation. *Romans 6:21, 23.*

P: 5. Do you also hope to be saved?

C: Yes, such is my hope.

P: 6. In whom, then, do you trust?

C: In my dear Lord + Jesus Christ.

P: 7. Who is Christ?

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

P: 8. How many Gods are there?

C: Only one; but there are three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

P: 9. What, then, has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?

C: He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

II. The Apostles' Creed

P: The Apostles' Creed; as the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household.

P: What is the First Article of the Apostles' Creed?

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

P: What does the First Article of the Apostles' Creed mean?

C: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them. He also richly and daily provides me with clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and yard, wife and children, land, animals, and all that I have—with all that I need to nourish and support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does purely out of fatherly, divine, goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

P: What is the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed?

C: And in + Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the 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.

P: What does the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed mean?

C: 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 person, 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, that I may be His own and live under Him in His Kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

P: What is the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed?

C: I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; + and the life everlasting. Amen.

P: What does the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed mean?

C: 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 daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers, and will at the Last Day raise up me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me together with all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

strengthen thy faith. Amen. *And:* Dost thou believe that my forgiveness is the forgiveness of God? *Answer.* Yes, dear sir. *Then let him say,* As thou believest, so be it done unto thee. And in the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ I forgive thee thy sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Depart in peace. *A pastor will know how to console with passages of Scripture those who have great burdens on their conscience, or are distressed and tempted, and can encourage them to believe. The form just given is intended only as a pattern for the simple.*

V. How People Should Be Taught to Confess

P: How People Should be Taught to Confess.

P: Please show me a short way to confess.

C: *You should say, Reverend and dear sir, I beseech thee to hear my confession, and to announce to me forgiveness for God's sake. Say, I, a poor sinner, confess before God that I am guilty of all sins; especially before thee I confess, that I am a man-servant, a maid-servant, etc.; but I have been unfaithful to my master; in this case or in that I have not done what he bade me; I have provoked him and caused him to curse; I have neglected many things and let them go to waste; in words and deeds I have been immodest; I have been angry with my fellows; I have grumbled and sworn at my wife, etc. For all this I am sorry and ask forgiveness. I mean to do better. A Master or Mistress should say thus: In particular I confess before thee that I have not been faithful in training my children, domestics, and family, to God's glory. I have cursed. I have set a bad example by unchaste words and deeds. I have injured my neighbor. I have slandered, have overcharged, or given false goods, or false measure. And whatever more he may have done in violation of God's commandment. If anyone do not feel oppressed by such or greater sins, let him not be anxious, or hunt up or invent sins, and thereby make his confession a torture, but let him name the one or two sins he knows. Thus: In particular, I confess that once I cursed. Once I used immodest words. I have neglected this or that, etc. This is enough. But if you know of none at all, (which is hardly possible), mention none in particular, but receive the forgiveness after the General Confession which you make before God to the minister. Then the Confessor should say: God be merciful unto thee and*

III. The Lord's Prayer

P: The Lord's Prayer; as the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household.

P: What is the Introduction to the Lord's Prayer?

C: Our Father, Who art in Heaven.

P: What does this mean?

C: With these words, God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

P: What is the First Petition to the Lord's Prayer?

C: Hallowed be Thy Name.

P: What does this mean?

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

P: How is this done?

C: When the Word of God is purely and plainly taught, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in Heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the Name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

P: What is the Second Petition to the Lord's Prayer?

C: Thy Kingdom come.

P: What does this mean?

C: The Kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

P: How is this done?

C: When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

P: What is the Third Petition to the Lord's Prayer?

C: Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

P: What does this mean?

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

P: How is this done?

C: When God breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will that does not want us to hallow God's Name or let His Kingdom come—namely, the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh—but rather strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

P: What is the Fourth Petition to the Lord's Prayer?

C: Give us this day our daily bread.

P: What does this mean?

C: God gives daily bread to all evil people, even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to recognize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

P: What is meant by daily bread?

C: Everything that has to do with the nourishment and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothes, shoes, house, yard, land, livestock, money, property, a pious spouse, pious children, pious servants, pious and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, discipline, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

P: For Widows.

P Please show me what is the office and service of widows.

C: Now, she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. *1 Timothy 5:5, 6.*

P: For All in Common.

P: Please show me what is the office and service of all in common.

C: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Herein are comprehended all the Commandments. *Romans 13:9.* And persevere in prayer for all men. *1 Timothy 2:1.*

P: What does Luther say about the whole of the Table of Duties?

C: Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare.

ment with promise: that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. *Ephesians 6:1-3.*

P: For Male and Female Servants, Hired Men, and Laborers.

P: Please show me what is the office and service of male and female servants, hired men, and laborers.

C: Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service as to the Lord, and not to men; knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. *Ephesians 6:5-8.*

P: For Masters and Mistresses.

P: Please show me what is the office and service of masters and mistresses.

C: And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening, knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with Him. *Ephesians 6:9.*

P: For Young Persons in General.

P: Please show me what is the office and service of young persons in general.

C: Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. *1 Peter 5:5, 6.*

P: What is the Fifth Petition to the Lord's Prayer?

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

P: What does this mean?

C: We pray in this petition that our Father in Heaven would not look at our sins and deny our prayer because of them, for we are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them; but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve only punishment. We, in turn, truly also wish to heartily forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

P: What is the Sixth Petition to the Lord's Prayer?

C: And lead us not into temptation.

P: What does this mean?

C: God, certainly, tempts no one. 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 or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice, and although we are troubled with these things, that we would nevertheless overcome and triumph in the end.

P: What is the Seventh Petition to the Lord's Prayer?

C: But + deliver us from evil.

P: What does this mean?

C: We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in Heaven would rescue us from every sort of evil of body and soul, of property and of honor, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in Heaven.

P: What is the Conclusion of the Lord's Prayer?

C: Amen.

P: What does this mean?

C: That I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in Heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen! Amen! That is, “yes, yes, it shall be so!”

IX. The Table of Duties

P: The Table of Duties consisting of certain passages of Scripture for various holy orders and stations, whereby these are to be admonished, as by a special lesson, regarding their office and service.

P: For Husbands.

P: Please show me what is the office and service of husbands.

C: Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered. And be not bitter against them. *1 Peter 3:7; and Colossians 3:19.*

P: For Wives.

P: Please show me what is the office and service of wives.

C: Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto the Lord. *Ephesians 5:22.* Even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord; whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement. *1 Peter 3:6.*

P: For Parents.

P: Please show me what is the office and service of parents.

C: And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. *Ephesians 6:4.*

P: For Children.

P: Please show me what is the office and service of children.

C: Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first command-

on this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom, to whom custom; fear, to whom fear; honor, to whom honor. *Romans 13:5-7*. I exhort therefore that, first of all supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings, and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God, our Savior. *1 Timothy 2:1-3*. Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work. *Titus 3:1*. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. *1 Peter 2:13, 14*.

IV. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

P: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism; as the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household.

P: I. The Nature of Holy Baptism.

P: What is Holy Baptism?

C: Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water contained in God's command and combined with God's Word.

P: Which is that Word of God?

C: Our Lord Christ says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Go forth into all the world, teach all heathens and Baptize them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

P: II. The Blessings of Holy Baptism.

P: What does Holy Baptism give or profit?

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

P: Which are such words and promise of God?

C: Our Lord Christ says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

P: III. The Power of Holy Baptism.

P: How can water do such great things?

C: Certainly water does not do it, but the Word of God that is with and in the water, and faith that trusts this Word of God in the water. For without God's Word the water is

plain water and no Baptism. But with the Word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a water of life, rich in grace, and a bath of the new birth in the Holy Ghost, as St. Paul says to Titus in chapter three: “Through the bath of rebirth and renewal of the Holy Ghost, Whom He poured out on us richly through + Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified and heirs of eternal life according to hope. This is most certainly true.”

P: IV. The Implication of Baptizing with Water.

P: What does such baptizing with water imply?

C: It implies that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man, in turn, should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

P: Where is this written?

C: St. Paul writes to the Romans in chapter six: “We were buried with Christ through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we, too, should walk in a new life.”

Timothy 5:17, 18.* And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves. *1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13.* Obey them that have rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief, for that is unprofitable for you. *Hebrews 13:17.

P: Concerning Civil Government.

P: Please show me what is the office and service concerning civil government.

C: Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God; and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou, then, not be afraid of the powers? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same; for he is a minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid, for he beareth not the sword in vain; for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. *Romans 13:1-4.*

P: What Subjects Owe to the Magistrates.

P: Please show me what subjects owe to the Magistrates.

C: Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's. *Matthew 22:21.* Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For, for this cause pay ye tribute also; for they are God's ministers, attending continually up-

IX. The Table of Duties

P: The Table of Duties consisting of certain passages of Scripture for various holy orders and stations, whereby these are to be admonished, as by a special lesson, regarding their office and service.

P: For Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers.

P: Please show me what is the office and service of Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers.

C: A bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach; not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; not a novice; holding fast the faithful Word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. *1 Timothy 3:2, 3, 4, and 6; and Titus 1:9.*

P: What the Hearers Owe to Their Pastors.

P: Please show me what the hearers owe to their pastors.

C: Eat and drink such things as they give; for the laborer is worthy of his hire. *Luke 10:7.* Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel. *1 Corinthians 9:14.* Let him that is taught in the Word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. *Galatians 6:6, 7.* Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the Word and doctrine. For the Scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn; and, The laborer is worthy of his reward. *1*

V. The Office of the Keys and Confession

P: The Office of the Keys and Confession; as the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household.

P: What is the Office of the Keys?

C: It is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on Earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to retain the sins of the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

P: Where is this written?

C: This is what the holy Evangelist St. John writes in chapter twenty: “The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you retain them, they are retained’” (John 20:22-23).

P: What do you believe according to these words?

C: I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude open and unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and, again, when they absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in Heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

P: What is Confession?

C: Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, and in no way doubt, but firmly believe that by it our sins are forgiven before God in Heaven.

P: What sins should we confess?

C: Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those of which we are not aware, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

P: Which are these?

C: Here consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments, whether you are a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker; whether you have been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy; whether you have been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome; whether you have hurt someone by your words or deeds; whether you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm.

VIII. How the Head of the Family Should Teach His Household to Ask a Blessing and Return Thanks

P: How the head of the family should teach his household to ask a blessing and return thanks.

P: Asking a Blessing.

P: Please show me how one is to ask a blessing before a meal.

C: *The children and servants shall go to the table with folded hands and reverently, and say:* 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. *Then the Lord's Prayer, and the prayer here following:* Lord God, Heavenly Father, bless us and these Thy gifts, which we take from Thy bountiful goodness; through + Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Returning Thanks.

P: Please show me how one is to return thanks after a meal.

C: *Likewise also after the meal they shall reverently and with folded hands say:* Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever. He giveth food to all flesh; He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens which cry. He delighteth not in the strength of the horse. He taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man. The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy. *Then the Lord's Prayer and the prayer here following:* We thank Thee, Lord God, Father, through + Jesus Christ, our Lord, for all Thy benefits; Who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

I thank Thee, my Heavenly Father, through + Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, that Thou hast graciously kept me this day, and I pray Thee to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. 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. *Then go to sleep promptly and cheerfully.*

VI. The Sacrament of the Altar

P: The Sacrament of the Altar; as the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to his household.

P: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

C: It is the true Body and Blood of our Lord + Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

P: Where is this written?

C: The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord + Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this Cup is the New Testament in My + Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P: What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

C: That is shown us by these words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," namely, that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through such words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

P: How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

C: Certainly it is not the eating and drinking that do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you

for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say and as they declare: “forgiveness of sins.”

P: Who receives this Sacrament worthily?

C: Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward discipline. But he is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” But he who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared. For the words “for you” require nothing but believing hearts.

VII. How the Head of the Family Should Teach His Household to Bless Themselves in the Morning and in the Evening

P: How the head of the family should teach his household to bless themselves in the Morning and in the Evening.

P: Morning Prayer.

P: Please show me how one should bless himself in the morning.

C: *In the morning, when you rise, you shall bless yourself with the holy cross and say: In the Name of God the Father, + Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may, in addition, say this little 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. Then go to your work with joy, singing a hymn, as the Ten Commandments, or what your devotion may suggest.*

P: Evening Prayer.

P: Please show me how one should bless himself in the evening.

C: *In the evening, when you go to bed, you shall bless yourself with the holy cross and say: In the Name of God the Father, + Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may, in addition, say this little prayer:*