

Back to the Basics: Luther's Large Catechism – The Second Commandment

The Ten Commandments Preach Repentance

The Ten Commandments show us our sin and how much we need a Savior.

- C** You shall have no other gods.
- You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**
- Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
- Honor your father and your mother.
- You shall not murder.
- You shall not commit adultery.
- You shall not steal.
- You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
- You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.



Prayer: These are the holy Ten Commands
 God gave to us by Moses' hands
 When high on Sinai's mount he stood,
 Receiving them for our good.
 Have mercy, Lord! Amen.

These Are the Holy Ten Commands (LSB 581, stanza 1)

The Six Chief Parts:

1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.

The Second Commandment



Luther's Explanation from the Small Catechism:
You shall not misuse the Name of the Lord your God.
 ("Pray to Me!")

<i>We should fear and love God</i>	First Commandment Foundation
<i>so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His Name,</i>	Negative Command
<i>but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.</i>	Positive Command

First Table of the Law: Love for God

The Son of Shelomith is stoned for blasphemy. (Leviticus 24)

The Second Commandment: *You shall not take the Name of the Lord, your God, in vain.*

1. What is the relationship between what is in the heart and what comes from the mouth? [50]

2. How is this commandment broken? [51-53]

3. What is the greatest misuse of God’s Name? [54]

4. What are some all-to-common sins against this commandment? What is so sinful in misusing God’s Name? [59-60]

5. In summarizing the ways God’s Name is misused, what specific sins does Luther name? [62]
a. _____ b. _____ c. _____
6. What is the right way to use God’s Name? [63-64]

7. What is the difference between appropriate taking of oaths and sinful swearing? [65-68]

8. What approach does Luther urge when training children to observe this commandment? [69]

9. Luther describes a habit to develop from childhood in paragraphs 71-72. How would we follow his advice today? [73]

10. Luther assumes that we will be using the sign of the cross. How do you feel about the sign of the cross? How can it be a meaningful symbol and gesture for us to use in our daily lives? [74]

A Look at the Divine Service

Lutherans believe that the highest worship of God is the desire to receive God’s gifts of grace in Christ.

The liturgy of the Divine Service names God for who He is and for what He does for us. It not only uses the language of the Scriptures, it also confesses the faith of the Scriptures. We learn what the Church believes by the way in which she worships.

The **First Table** of the law describes the Church as people who “*fear, love, and trust in God above all things.*” Such a faith is impossible for us to achieve by the Law. The Law can only expose our sin and failure to believe. Nevertheless, the faith demanded by the Law is born in us by the Gospel and Holy Baptism.

Second Commandment in the Divine Service

In the liturgy the company of the baptized *call upon* the Name of God, asking for good things, which He Himself has promised:

- The Confession of Sins (“Our help is in the Name of the Lord”)
- The Salutation (“The Lord be with you. And with thy spirit. Or: And also with you.”)
- The Collect of the Day (A brief prayer that “collects” the theme of the readings, festival, or season.)
- Prayer of the Church (Prayers in response to the Scripture readings and sermon. Having heard the promises of God, we lay our needs before Him.)
- Offices of the Church (Matins, Morning Prayer, Vespers, Evening Prayer)
- The Psalms (Introit, Gradual, Verse, and Offertory, which are prayed verses of Holy Scripture.)
- The Canticles (Nunc Dimittis, Magnificat, Benedictus, and Te Deum Laudamus)

Closing Prayer

“Do not My holy Name disgrace, Do not My Word of truth debase. Praise only that as good and true Which I Myself say and do.” Have mercy, Lord! Amen.

These Are the Holy Ten Commands (LSB 581, stanza 3)