

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



Luther's Explanation from the Small Catechism:

*Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
 ("Hear Me!")*

<i>We should fear and love God</i>	First Commandment Foundation
<i>so that we do not despise preaching and His Word,</i>	Negative Command
<i>but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.</i>	Positive Command

First Table of the Law: Love for God

Hearing and Despising preaching and His Word (Numbers 15)

The Third Commandment: *You shall sanctify the holy day.*

1. What is the meaning of “sabbath”? In what way is this commandment directed most specifically to the Old Testament people of God? [79-80]

2. How did this commandment become misunderstood and misused? [82]

3. What is the intention of this commandment for Christians? [84]

4. Why do we set aside at least one day a week for public worship services? [85-86]

5. How do we keep the day of worship holy? [90]

6. What benefit does God intend for us by commanding us to sanctify the holy day? [92]

7. What is the key to any day that is truly considered holy? [94-95]

8. How can this commandment be violated even when we are in church? [96-99]

9. What is the deadly sin of *akadia*? How prevalent is it today? Is it present in our own lives? [99]

10. Why is it so important to keep God’s Word always before our eyes and in our ears? [100-102]

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.

Third Commandment in the Divine Service

In the Divine Service, the Sabbath is hallowed by the preaching and hearing of the Word of God:

- Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the prophets speak in the Old Testament reading.
- Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the apostles speak in the Epistle reading.
- The Lord Jesus speaks in the Holy Gospel reading.
- The pastor preaches the sermon “in the stead and by the command of Christ,” according to the faith of the Church, which is founded upon the Word of the apostles and prophets of which Jesus Christ Himself is the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20; Luke 24:25-27, 44-47).

Closing Prayer

“You shall observe the worship day
That peace may fill your home, and pray,
And put aside the work you do,
So that God may work in you.”
Have mercy, Lord! Amen.

These Are the Holy Ten Commands (LSB 581, stanza 4)