

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



Luther's Explanation from the Small Catechism:

*You shall have no other gods.
 ("Trust Me!")*

<i>We should fear, love, and trust</i>	Synonyms for faith.
<i>in God above all things.</i>	The Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

First Table of the Law: Love for God

Deuteronomy 6:5 – *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. (See also: Matthew 22:36-40)*

Worship of the Golden Calf (Exodus 32)

The First Commandment: *You shall have no other gods.*

1. What are “other gods” in whom we are tempted to trust? [1-9]

2. How does the fallen world lead us to put our trust in money and possessions? [7]

3. What does it mean to “have” God? [13-15]

4. For what reason does God turn us away from anything that may take His place in our lives? [15]

5. How can a religion of works become a false god in our life? [22]

6. How do we examine ourselves in light of this commandment? [28]

7. What is the terrible threat God attaches to this commandment? [30]

8. What is the wonderful promise attached to this commandment? [30]

9. What is the world’s experience with this commandment? How does it regard God’s claim on us? [42]

10. The Catechism lists many kinds of good things that come to us from God. Add to that list other and modern things that are real blessings. Trace any of the blessings you enjoy back through their various sources and keep asking who is to have the credit and get the appreciation? If in your heart you give the credit and your real appreciation to someone of something else than the true God, what are you guilty of?

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.

First Commandment in the Divine Service

In the Athanasian Creed we confess, “The catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity.”

Our Trinitarian faith is reflected throughout the Divine Service:

- Invocation and Absolution (“In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”)
- Gloria Patri (“Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit”)
- Threefold Kyrie (“Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.”)
- Gloria in Excelsis (“Glory be to God on high ... God the Father Almighty ... the only-begotten Jesus Christ”)
- Termination of Collects (“... through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns... ”)
- The Creeds (Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds in the Three Articles of Faith)
- Threefold Sanctus (“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth... ”)
- The Benediction (“The Lord bless you and keep you... ”)

Closing Prayer: “I am alone your God, the Lord; No other gods shall be adored. But you shall fully trust in Me And love Me wholeheartedly.” Have mercy, Lord! Amen.

These Are the Holy Ten Commands (LSB 581, stanza 2)