

The Ten Commandments
Bethel Lutheran Church Confirmation
Memory Work Cycle B

The First Table of the Law

- #1: I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other Gods.
We are to fear, love, and trust God above everything else.
- #2: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
We are to fear and love God so that we do not use his name superstitiously, or use it to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, but call on him in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.
- #3: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
We are to fear and love God so that we do not neglect his Word and the preaching of it, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

The Second Table of the Law

- #4: Honor your father and your mother.
We are to fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and others in authority but respect, obey, love, and serve them.
- #5: You shall not kill.
We are to fear and love God so that we do not hurt our neighbor in any way, but help him in all his physical needs.
- #6: You shall not commit adultery.
We are to fear and love God so that in matters of sex our words and conduct are pure and honorable, and husband and wife love and respect each other.
- #7: You shall not steal.
We are to fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or property, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of making a living.
- #8: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
We are to fear and love God so that we do not betray, slander, or lie about our neighbor, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain his actions in the kindest way.
- #9: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
We are to fear and love God so that we do not desire to get our neighbor's possessions by scheming, or by pretending to have a right to them, but always to help him keep what is his.
- #10: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his manservant or his maidservant or his cattle or anything that is your neighbor's.
We are to fear and love God so that we do not tempt or coax away from our neighbor his wife or his workers, but encourage them to remain loyal.

Epilogue: What does God say of all these commandments?

He says, "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."

God warns that he will punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we are to fear his wrath and not disobey him. But he promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments; therefore, we are to love and trust him, and gladly do what he commands.

The Lord's Prayer

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Introduction: Our Father in heaven. (*Our Father who art in heaven.*)

What does this mean? Here God encourages us to believe that he is truly our Father and we are his children. We therefore are to pray to him with complete confidence just as children speak to their loving father.

First Petition: Hallowed be your name. (*Hallowed be thy name.*)

What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we ask in this prayer that we may keep it holy.

When does this happen? God's name is hallowed whenever his Word is taught in its truth and purity and we as children of God live in harmony with it. Help us to do this, heavenly Father! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to the Word of God dishonors God's name among us. Keep us from doing this, heavenly Father!

Second Petition: Your kingdom come. (*Thy kingdom come.*)

What does this mean? God's kingdom comes indeed without our prayer for it, but we ask in this prayer that it may come also to us.

When does this happen? God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit, so that by his grace we believe his holy Word and live a godly life on earth now and in heaven forever.

Third Petition: Your will be done on earth as in heaven. (*Thy will be done on earth as in heaven.*)

What does this mean? The good and gracious will of God is surely done without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may be done also among us.

When does this happen? God's will is done when he hinders and defeats every evil scheme and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful self, which would prevent us from keeping his name holy and would oppose the coming of his kingdom. And his will is done when he strengthens our faith and keeps us firm in his Word as long as we live. This is his gracious and good will.

Fourth Petition: Give us today our daily bread. (*Give us this day our daily bread.*)

What does this mean? God gives daily bread, even without our prayer, to all people, though sinful, but we ask in this prayer that he will help us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanks.

What is meant by "daily bread"? Daily bread includes everything needed for this life, such as food and clothing, home and property, work and income, a devoted family, an orderly community, good government, favorable weather, peace and health, a good name, and true friends and neighbors.

Fifth Petition: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. (*And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.*)

What does this mean? We ask in this prayer that our Father in heaven would not hold our sins against us and because of them refuse to hear our prayer. And we pray that he would give us everything by grace, for we sin every day and deserve nothing but punishment. So we on our part will heartily forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

Sixth Petition: Save us from the time of trial. (*And lead us not into temptation.*)

What does this mean? God tempts no one to sin, but we ask in this prayer that God would watch over us and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful self may not deceive us and draw us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins. And we pray that even though we are so tempted we may still win the final victory.

Seventh Petition: And deliver us from evil. (*But deliver us from evil.*)

What does this mean? We ask in this inclusive prayer that our heavenly Father would save us from every evil to body and soul, and at our last hour would mercifully take us from the troubles of this world to himself in heaven.

Doxology: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen
(For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen)

What does "Amen" mean? Amen means, "Yes, it shall be so." We say Amen because we are certain that such 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.