

2018-2019

Religious

Lessons

***8/28**

Luther's Morning Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray You to protect me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings in life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Week One *9/4

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

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

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not curse, swear, practice witchcraft, lie or deceive by His name, but call upon Him in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.

On My Heart Imprint Thine Image (ELH #593)

On my heart imprint Thine image,

Blessed Jesus, King of grace

That life's riches, cares, and pleasures,

Have no pow-r Thee to efface.

This the superscription be; Jesus, crucified for me,

Is my life, my hope's foundation,

And my glory and salvation.

Week 2 (9/10)

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

You shall keep the day of rest holy.

What does this mean?

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.

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

Honor your father and your mother, that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey, love and esteem them.

Jesus Sinners doth Receive (426)

1. Jesus sinners doth receive;
Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live
And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve--
Jesus sinners doth receive.
2. We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim.
Here their ills have perfect healing
Who with humble hearts believe--
Jesus sinners doth receive.
3. Sheep that from the fold did stray
No true shepherd e'er forsaketh:
Weary souls that lost their way
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live--
Jesus sinners doth receive.
4. Come, ye sinners, one and all,
Come, accept His invitation;
Come, obey His gracious call,
Come and take His free salvation!
Firmly in these words believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Week 3 (9/17)

Matthew 19:14

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not kill.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God, so that we do no bodily harm to our neighbor, but help and befriend him in every need.

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God, so that we lead a chaste and decent life in word and deed, and that husband and wife each love and honor the other.

Take My Life and Let It Be (ELH 444)- vs 1-6

1. Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love. Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.
3. Take my voice and let me sing Always only, for my King. Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.
4. Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I with hold. Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
5. Take my will and make it Thine; It shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is Thine own; It shall be Thy royal throne.
6. Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store; Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

Week 4 (9/24)

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not take our neighbor's money or goods, nor get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his goods and means of making a living.

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not lie about, betray or slander our neighbor, but excuse him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.

Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying (ELH 191)- vs 1-4

1. Hark! The voice of Jesus crying, "Who will go and work today? Fields are ripe and harvests waiting; who will bear the sheaves away?" Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee. Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me?"

2. If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul, You can tell the love of Jesus; You can say He died for all. If you cannot rouse the wicked With the Judgment's dread alarms, You can lead the little children To the Savior's waiting arms.

3. If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion's wall, Pointing out the path to heaven, Off'ring life and peace to all, With your prayers and with your off'rings You can do what God demands; You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet's hands.

4. Let none hear you idly saying, "There is nothing I can do,"
While the multitudes are dying, And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly; Let His work your pleasure be.
Answer quickly when He calleth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

Week 5 (10/1)

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not craftily seek to gain our neighbor's inheritance or home, nor get it by a show of right, but help and serve him in keeping it.

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not tempt, force or coax away from our neighbor his wife or his workers, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Fear and Love Thy God and Lord (510)

1 Fear and love thy God and Lord, And revere His name and Word, Holy keep the Sabbath day, Honor to thy parents pay. Kill not, shun adultery, Steal not, lies and slander flee, Keep from covetousness free. Help me, Lord, I trust in Thee!

2 In the Father I believe, Who to all did being give, And in Jesus Christ, His Son, Who for all redemption won; And my faith I also place In the Holy Ghost, whose grace Sanctifies our souls and ways. Grant me faith through all my days!

3 Father, throned in heav'n above, Hallowed by Thy name in love; Let Thy kingdom come, we pray, And Thy will be done alway; Give us food, forgiveness send, In temptations aid extend, Save us, Lord, when comes our end! Amen! Lord, Thy Church defend!

4 God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit, Three in One, I, baptized into Thy name, As Thy child Thy blessing claim; Grant that by Thy promised grace I my trust in Thee may place, All my sins with peace replace Till in heav'n I see Thy face.

Week 6 (10/8)

Conclusion to the Commandments

What does God say about these commandments?

I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, and showing mercy to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

What does this mean?

God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. Therefore we should fear His wrath and do nothing against these commandments. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore we should also love and trust in Him and willingly do according to His commandments.

Hymn 251 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty Fortress is our God, A trusty Shield and Weapon;
Our help is He in all our need, Our stay whate'er doth happen;
For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe;
Strong mail of craft and pow'r He weareth in this hour; On earth is not his equal.

Stood we alone in our own might, Our striving would be losing;
For us the one true Man doth fight, The Man of God's own choosing.
Who is this chosen One? 'Tis Jesus Christ, the Son,
The Lord of hosts, 'tis He Who wins the victory In ev'ry field of battle.

And were the world with devils filled, All watching to devour us,
Our souls to fear we need not yield, They cannot overpow'r us.
Their dreaded prince no more Can harm us as of yore;
His rage we can endure; For lo! His doom is sure, A word shall overthrow him.

Still must they leave God's Word its might, For which no thanks they merit;
Still is He with us in the fight, With His good gifts and Spirit.
And should they, in the strife, Take kindred, goods, and life,
We freely let them go, They profit not the foe; With us remains the kingdom.

Week 7 (10/22)

Matthew 5:16

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

THE FIRST ARTICLE

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

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; that He richly and daily provides me with food and clothing, home and family, property and goods, and all that I need to support this body and life; ch that He protects me from all danger, guards and keeps me from all evil; and all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I am in duty bound to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (ELH 65)- vs 1, 2, 4, 5

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy Health and Salvation!

Join the full throng; Wake, harp and psalter and song.

Sound forth in glad adoration!

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,

Who as on wings of an eagle, uplifteth, sustaineth.

Hast thou not seen How thy desires all have been

Granted in what He ordaineth?

4. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee,

Who from the heavens the streams of His mercy doth send thee.

Ponder a new What the Almighty can do

Who with His love doth befriend thee.

5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!

Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly for aye we adore Him.

God's Word is Our Great Heritage (ELH 583)

God's Word is our great heritage,
And shall be ours for ever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure,
Throughout all generations.

Week 8 (11/5)

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

THE SECOND ARTICLE

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary; and that He is my Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, 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; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Now Thank We All Our God (ELH 63)- vs 1-3

1. Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, In whom His world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is our today.

2. O may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore!
For thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

Week 9 (11/12)

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

THE THIRD ARTICLE

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. What does this mean?

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; just 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 this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives me and all believers all our sins; and at the last day He will raise up me and all the dead, and will grant me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

The Church's One Foundation (ELH 486)

1. The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

2. Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses, With ev'ry grace endued.

3. The Church shall never perish! Her dear Lord, to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish, Is with her to the end.
Though there be those that hate her, False sons within her pale,
Against both foe and traitor She ever shall prevail.

4. Though with a scornful wonder Men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

Extra 12/17

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (ELH123)- vs 1, 2, 6, 13

1. "From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Where-of I now will say and sing:

2. "To you this night is born a Child
Of Mary, chosen Virgin mild;
This little Child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

6. "Now let us all with gladsome cheer
Follow the shepherds and draw near
To see this wondrous gift of God,
Who hath His only Son bestowed."

13. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for thee.

Week 10 (1/7)

THE INTRODUCTION

Our Father, Who art in heaven.

What does this mean?

God would hereby tenderly invite us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true children, so that we may ask Him with all boldness and confidence, as children ask their dear father.

HYMN 226

1. By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;

My soul, believe and doubt it not.

Why stagger at this word of promise?

Hath Scripture ever falsehood taught?

Nay; then this word must true remain;

By grace thou, too, shalt heav'n obtain.

2. By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;

Our works and conduct have no worth.

God in His love sent our Redeemer,

Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;

His death did for our sins atone,

And we are saved by grace alone.

3. By grace! Oh, mark this word of promise

When thou art by thy sins opprest,

When Satan plagues thy troubled conscience,

And when thy heart is seeking rest.

What reason cannot comprehend

God by His grace to thee doth send.

4. By grace God's Son, our only Savior,

Came down to earth to bear our sin.

Was it because of thine own merit

That Jesus died thy soul to win?

Nay, it was grace, and grace alone,

That brought Him from His heavenly throne.

Week 11 (1/15)

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

THE FIRST PETITION

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean?

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

How is God's name hallowed?

God's name is kept holy when His Word is taught in its truth and purity, and we as the children of God live holy lives according to it. This grant us, dear Father in heaven! But he who teaches and lives otherwise than the Word of God teaches dishonors God's name among us.

From this preserve us, heavenly Father!

God's Own Child (246)

God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ! He, because I could not pay it, gave my full redemption price. Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any That brought me salvation free, Lasting to eternity!

Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ! I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice. Should a guilty conscience seize me Since my baptism did release me In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ! Drop your ugly accusation; I am not so soon enticed. Now that to the font I've traveled, All your might has come unraveled, And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!

Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ! When I die, I leave all sadness to inherit paradise! Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith's assurance brightly flashes: Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.

WEEK 12 (1/21)

Luke 11:28

"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

THE SECOND PETITION

Thy Kingdom come.

What does this mean?

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

How does God's kingdom come?

The kingdom of God comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.

Blessed Jesus at Thy Word (ELH 1)- vs 1-4

1. Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word

We are gathered all to hear Thee;
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear thee,
By Thy teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love Thee solely.

2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight

Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Thy Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
Thou alone to God canst win us;
Thou must work all good within us.

3. Glorious Lord, Thy self impart,

Light of Light, from God proceeding
Open Thou our ears and heart,
Help us by Thy Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Thy people raises,
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

4. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,

Praise to Thee and adoration!
Grant that we Thy Word may trust,
And obtain true consolation
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Thy praises yonder.

Week 13 (1/28)

John 14:2

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

THE THIRD PETITION

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

What does this mean?

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

How is God's will done?

God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil counsel and will which would not let us hallow His name nor let His kingdom come, such as the will of the devil, the world and our own flesh; but strengthens and keeps us steadfast in His Word and in faith until our end. This is His good and gracious will.

O That the Lord Would Guide My Ways (ELH 441)- vs 1-4

1. O that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His statutes still!
O that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!

2. Order my footsteps by Thy Word And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.

3. Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep
And should I e'er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

4. Make me to walk in Thy commands, A most delightful road;
Nor let my head or heart or hands Offend against my God.

Week 14 (2/4)

John 17:17

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

THE FOURTH PETITION

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

God certainly gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all the wicked; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to acknowledge this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything needed for this life, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, fields, cattle, money, goods, God-fearing spouse and children, faithful servants and rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, order, honor, true friends, good neighbors, and the like.

HYMN #371 THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD

1. The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me The quiet waters by.
2. My soul He doth restore again And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for His own name's sake.
3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod And staff me comfort still.
4. My table Thou hast furnished In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.
5. Goodness and mercy, all my life, Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.

WEEK 15 (2/11)

Psalm 50:15

Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.

THE FIFTH PETITION

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

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins, nor on their account deny our prayer; for we are not worthy of anything we ask, neither have we deserved it. But we pray that He would give us everything by grace, for we daily sin much and deserve nothing but punishment; and we on our part will heartily forgive and readily do good to those who sin against us.

I'm But a Stranger Here (ELH 474)- vs 1-4

1. I'm but a stranger here; Heav'n is my home.

Earth is a desert drear; Heav'n is my home.

Danger and sorrow stand Round me on ev'ry hand.

Heav'n is my father-land; Heav'n is my home.

2. What though the tempest rage, Heav'n is my home.

Short is my pilgrimage; Heav'n is my home.

And time's wild wintry blast Soon shall be over past;

I shall reach home at last; Heav'n is my home.

3. There at my Savior's side Heav'n is my home.

I shall be glorified; Heav'n is my home.

There are the good and blest, Those I love most and best,

And there I, too, shall rest; Heav'n is my home.

4. Therefore I murmur not; Heav'n is my home.

Whate'er my earthly lot, Heav'n is my home.

And I shall surely stand There at my Lord's right hand.

Heav'n is my father-land; Heav'n is my home.

WEEK 16 (2/19)

2 Peter 1:21

For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

THE SIXTH PETITION

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

God certainly tempts no one to sin, but we pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world and our own flesh may not deceive us nor lead us into misbelief, despair and other shameful sin and vice; and though we be thus tempted, that we may still in the end overcome and retain the victory.

HYMN 378

1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God hath done, How His right arm the vict'ry won;
Right dearly it hath cost Him

1. Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay; Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day; In sin my mother bore me.
Yea, deep and deeper still I fell; Life had become a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.

3. My good works so imperfect were, They had no pow'r to aid me;
My will God's judgments could not bear, Yea, prone to evil made me;
Grief drove me to despair, and I Had nothing left me but to die;
To hell I fast was sinking.

4. But God beheld my wretched state
Before the world's foundation, And, mindful of His mercies great,
He planned my soul's salvation. A father's heart He turned to me,
Sought my redemption fervently; He gave His dearest Treasure.

Week 17 (2/25)

1 John 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

THE SEVENTH PETITION

But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition, as the sum of all, that our Father in heaven would deliver us from every evil of body and soul, property and honor; and at last, when the hour of death shall come, grant us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

HYMN #54 BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

1. Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.
4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine!

Week 18 (3/4)

John 8: 31-32

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

THE CONCLUSION

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

What does "Amen" mean?

Amen means that we should be sure that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven and are heard by Him; for He himself has commanded us so to pray and has promised to hear us. Amen, Amen: that is, Yes, Yes, it shall be so.

Hymn 283

1. Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood From His sacred veins.
2. Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind.
3. Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torments Did the world redeem.
4. Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.
5. Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.
6. Lift we, then our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

Week 19 (3/11)

ACTS 4:12

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

THE NATURE OF BAPTISM

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just water, but it is the water used according to God's command and connected with His Word.

What is that Word and command of God concerning Baptism?

Jesus says: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatever I have commanded you."

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus Loves Me (ELH 179)- vs 1-4

1. Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.

Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

2. Jesus loves me! See His grace! On the cross He took my place
There He suffered and he died, That I might be glorified. Refrain:

3. Jesus loves me! God's own Son Over sin the vict'ry won.
When I die, saved by His grace, I shall see Him face to face. Refrain:

4. Jesus loves me! He is near. He is with His Church so dear.
And the Spirit He has sent By His Word and Sacrament. Refrain:

Week 20 (3/18)

II CORINTHIANS 8:9

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich." II Corinthians 8:9

THE BLESSINGS OF BAPTISM

What does Baptism give or profit?

Baptism effects forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, just as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says, Mark 16:16: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

Children of the Heavenly Father (ELH 174)- vs 1-4

1. Children of the heav'nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird or star in heaven Such a refuge ne'er was given.
2. God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms He bears them.
3. Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, and their sorrows all He knoweth.
4. Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

WEEK 21 (3/25)

Job 19:25-26

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;

THE POWER OF BAPTISM

How can water do such great things?

It is not the water that does these things, but the Word of God which is in and with the water, and faith which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without the Word of God the water is simply water, and no baptism; but with the Word of God it is a baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and washing of regeneration in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says, Titus 3:5-8: "According to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; that having been justified by His grace, we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying."

God Loves Me Dearly (ELH #175, v.1-4)

God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

*Therefore I'll say again:
God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

I was in slav'ry,
Sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working
To make me free.

*

He sent forth Jesus,
My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
and set me free.

*

Jesus my Savior,
Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior,
Paid all I owed.

*

Week 22 (4/1)

Mark 16:15-16

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

What does such baptizing with water mean?

Such baptizing with water means that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts; and that a new man daily come forth and arise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes, Romans 6:4: "We are buried with Christ by baptism into death, that just as He was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

HYMN #284: GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE

1. Go to dark Gethsemane, Ye that feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.
2. Follow to the judgment hall; View the Lord of life arraigned.
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; Learn of Him to bear the cross.
3. Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry; Learn of Jesus Christ to die.
4. Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom, Who hath taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

Week 23 (4/8)

I Peter 5:7

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." I Peter 5:7

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is the special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth: to forgive the sins of the penitent sinners, but to retain the sins of the impenitent as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

The evangelist writes, John 20:22-23: "Jesus breathed on His disciples and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; and if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'"

Hymn 351

1. I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever living Head.

2. He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save.
He lives all glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.

5. He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears.
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

6. He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly Friend;
He lives and loves me to the end.
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

8. He lives, all glory to His name!
He Lives, my Jesus, still the same.
O the sweet joy this sentence gives:
"I know that my Redeemer lives!

Extra (4/15)

What is Confession?

Confession consists of two parts: one, that we confess our sins; the other, that we receive absolution, or forgiveness, from the pastor or confessor as from God himself, and in no way doubt, but firmly believe that our sins are thereby forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should acknowledge ourselves guilty of all sins, even of those which we do not know about, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. But before the pastor or confessor we should acknowledge those sins only which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Here consider your own situation according to the Ten Commandments, whether you are a father, mother, son, daughter, employer, employee; whether you have been disobedient, dishonest, lazy; whether you have injured anyone by word or deed; whether you have stolen, neglected, wasted anything, or done any harm.

Hymn 385

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'ry thing to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit;
O what needless pain we bear--
All because we do not carry
Ev'ry-thing to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness
Take it to the Lord in prayer!

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Short Week (4/23)

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

THE NATURE OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

The Sacrament of the Altar 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.

Where is this written?

The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark and Luke, together with St. Paul, write thus: "Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, 'Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, Drink from it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus (ELH 236)- vs 1-4

1. Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Flee the world, which would deceive us, And to sin our souls allure.
Ever in His footsteps treading, Body here, yet soul above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me; Savior, lead, I follow Thee.

2. Let us suffer here with Jesus, To His image e'er conform;
Heaven's glory soon will please us, Sunshine follow on the storm.
Though we sow in tears of sorrow, We shall reap in heav'nly joy;
And the fears that now annoy Shall be laughter on the morrow.
Christ, I suffer here with Thee; There, O share Thy joy with me!

3. Let us also die with Jesus. His death from the second death,
From our soul's destruction, frees us, Quicken us with life's glad breath.
Let us mortify, while living, Flesh and blood and die to sin;
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here I die to Thee, There to live eternally.

4. Let us gladly live with Jesus; Since He's risen from the dead,
Death and grave must soon release us. Jesus, Thou art now our Head.
We are truly Thine own members; Where Thou livest, there live we.
Take and own us constantly, Faithful Friend, as Thy dear brethren.
Jesus, here I live to Thee, Also there eternally.

Week 24 (4/29)

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

THE BENEFIT OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

What benefit do we receive from such eating and drinking?

The benefit which we receive from such eating and drinking is shown us by these words: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins," namely, that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

Hymn 252

1. I walk in danger all the way; The thought shall never leave me
That Satan, who has marked his prey, Is plotting to deceive me.
This foe with hidden snares May seize me unawares
If e'er I fail to watch and pray; I walk in danger all the way.

4. I walk with angels all the way; They shield me and befriend me.
All Satan's pow'r is held at bay When heav'nly hosts attend me.
They are my sure defense, All fear and sorrow, hence!
Unharm'd by foes, do what they may, I walk with angels all the way.

5. I walk with Jesus all the way; His guidance never fails me.
Within His wounds I find a stay When Satan's pow'r assails me,
And, by His footsteps led, My path I safely tread.
In spite of ills that threaten may. I walk with Jesus all the way.

6. My walk is heav'nward all the way; Await, my soul, the morrow,
When thou shalt find release for aye From all thy sin and sorrow.
All worldly pomp, begone! To heav'n I now press on.
For all the world I would not stay; My walk is heav'nward all the way.

Week 25 (5/6)

Matthew 11:28

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

THE POWER OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

It is not the eating and drinking that does this, but the words here written: "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." These words, along with the eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament; and whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, namely, the forgiveness of sins.

Abide With Me (ELH 561) - vs. 1, 2, 7, 8

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide.

The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.

When other helpers fail and comforts flee,

Help of the helpless, O abide with me!

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;

Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away.

Change and decay in all around I see;

O thou who changest not, abide with me!

7. I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;

Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.

Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?

I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

8. Hold Thou thy cross before my closing eyes,

Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;

Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;

In Life and death, O Lord, abide with me!

Week 26 (5/13)

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

THE PROPER RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

Who then receives this Sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are indeed a fine outward training; but he is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words, "Given and shed for you for the remission of sins." But he who does not believe these words, or doubts them, is unworthy and unprepared; for the words "for you" require truly believing hearts.

We Now Implore God, the Holy Ghost (ELH 33)- vs 1-3

1. We now implore God the Holy Ghost

For the true faith, which we need the most,
That in our last moments He may befriend us
And, as homeward we journey, attend us.
Lord, have mercy!

2. Shine in our hearts, O most precious Light,
That we Jesus Christ may know a right,
Clinging to our Savior, whose blood hath bought us,
Who again to our homeland hath brought us.
Lord, have mercy!

3. Thou sacred Love, grace on us bestow,
Set our hearts with heav'nly fire aglow
That with hearts united we love each other,
Of one mind, in peace with ev'ry brother.
Lord, have mercy!