

POCKET EDITION



LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

AUGSBURG FORTRESS
MINNEAPOLIS

CONTENTS

The Ten Commandments	4
The Apostles' Creed	12
The Lord's Prayer	18
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism	28
Confession	31
The Sacrament of the Altar	33
Morning and Evening Blessings	36
Blessings at Meals	39

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

You shall have no other gods.

WHAT IS THIS? or WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We are to fear, love, and trust God above all things.

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.

WHAT IS THIS? or WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not curse, swear, practice magic, lie, or deceive using God's name, but instead use that very name in every time of need to call on, pray to, praise, and give thanks to God.

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

WHAT IS THIS? or WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We are to fear and love God,
so that we do not despise preaching or God's word,
but instead keep that word holy
and gladly hear and learn it.

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

Honor your father and your mother.

WHAT IS THIS? or WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We are to fear and love God,
so that we neither despise nor anger
our parents and others in authority,
but instead honor, serve, obey,
love, and respect them.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not murder.

WHAT IS THIS? *or* WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We are to fear and love God,
so that we neither endanger nor harm
the lives of our neighbors,
but instead help and support them
in all of life's needs.

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not commit adultery.

WHAT IS THIS? *or* WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We are to fear and love God,
so that we lead pure and decent lives
in word and deed,
and each of us loves and honors his or her spouse.

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not steal.

WHAT IS THIS? *or* WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We are to fear and love God,
so that we neither take our neighbors' money
or property
nor acquire them by using shoddy merchandise
or crooked deals,
but instead help them to improve and protect
their property and income.

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not bear false witness
against your neighbor.

WHAT IS THIS? or WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We are to fear and love God,
so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors,
betray or slander them,
or destroy their reputations.
Instead we are to come to their defense,
speak well of them,
and interpret everything they do
in the best possible light.

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

WHAT IS THIS? *or* WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We are to fear and love God,
so that we do not try to trick our neighbors
out of their inheritance or property
or try to get it for ourselves
by claiming to have a legal right to it and the like,
but instead be of help and service to them
in keeping what is theirs.