

Lutheran Confessions

Large Catechism: The 3rd Commandment

... As regards this external observance, this commandment was given to the Jews alone, that they should abstain from toilsome work, and rest, so that both man and beast might recuperate, and not be weakened

by unremitting labor. **Although they afterwards restricted this too closely, and grossly abused it, so that they slandered and could not endure in Christ those works which they themselves were accustomed to do on that day, as we read in the Gospel;** just as though the commandment were fulfilled by doing no external, [manual] work whatever, which, however, was not the meaning, but, as we shall hear, that they sanctify the holy day or day of rest.

82] This commandment, therefore, according to its gross sense, does not concern us Christians... **83]** But to grasp a Christian meaning for the simple as to what God requires in this commandment, note that we keep holy days not for the sake of intelligent and learned Christians (for they have no need of it [holy days]), but **first of all for bodily causes and necessities**, which nature teaches and requires; for the common people, man-servants and maid-servants, who have been attending to their work and trade the whole week, **that for a day they may retire in order to rest and be refreshed.**

84] **Secondly**, and most especially, that on such day of rest (since we can get no other opportunity) **freedom and time be taken to attend divine service, so that we come together to hear and treat of God's Word, and then to praise God, to sing and pray.**

...**86]** Therefore this is the simple meaning of the commandment: since holidays are observed anyhow, **such observance should be devoted to hearing God's Word, so that the special function of this day should be the ministry of the Word for the young and the mass of poor people;** yet that the resting be not so strictly interpreted as to forbid any other incidental work that cannot be avoided.

Large Catechism: The 5th Petition of the Lord's Prayer

90] But this should serve God's purpose of **breaking our pride and keeping us humble.** For in case any one should boast of his godliness and despise others, God has reserved this prerogative to Himself, that the person is to consider himself and place this prayer before his eyes, and he will find that he is no better than others, and that in the presence of God all must lower their plumes, and be glad that they can attain forgiveness. 91] And let no one think that as long as we live here he can reach such a position that he will not need such forgiveness. In short, if God does not forgive without ceasing, we are lost.

(Bente, F., *Concordia Triglotta*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997).

Put it into Practice

These questions have been put together to help you as you extend and apply tonight's Scripture to your life.

Prayer

Lord, we implore You, grant Your people grace to withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds to follow You, the only God; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN** (*Collect for Trinity 17*)

Word of God: St. Luke 14:1-11 (on back)

Questions to Ponder in Prayer

Intro: Jesus has been invited by a prominent Pharisee to the Friday evening Seder meal—which was really the beginning of the Sabbath (Fri 6 PM to Sat 6 PM). We don't know if this Pharisee was friendly toward Jesus.

1. This is not the first time that the Pharisees were watching him closely, nor will it be the last time. See Luke 6:7, 20:20.
2. Dropsy is a medical condition today called “edema,” water retention in the body. According to Lev. 13:1-9, how would this man be viewed?
3. How the man got before Jesus in the house is not mentioned. But now that he is present, what does Jesus do? (v. 3)
4. What Jesus does in verse 4 breaks three laws. What are they?
5. See Exodus 20:8-11 and Deut. 5:12-15 for the original commandment and the reasons for its institution. What are they? (Ex 20:11 and Dt 5:15) Finally, what is most importantly to happen on the Sabbath? (Lev 23:3)
6. The Pharisees misunderstand the purpose of the Sabbath law and thus they believe that slavishly keeping it is more important than loving a neighbor. Why did the Pharisees keep the Sabbath law? (Gal 3:10-11, Hos 6:6)
7. Why didn't the Pharisees answer Jesus' question in verse 3 or verse 5? (Luke 6:5, “Lord of the Sabbath,” Mark 2:27-28, “for man,” Luke 7:30)
8. What example does Jesus give in v. 5-11 that shows their works righteous attitude, which was revealed in their despising of the man with dropsy?
9. Based on what, do you think, did they rank themselves at the meal? (Luke 11:43, 12:1, 20:45-47) How was this hypocrisy (Lk 16:14-15, 12:1)?
10. Although it may at first appear to be table etiquette (v.7-10), how does verse 11 tell us that this is not about that at all? Who does the verbs?
11. How did Jesus humble himself? (Phil. 2:6-8, Heb 2:14-18, 1 Pet 2:24)
12. How does one humble himself? (Psalm 51, 1 John 1:8, 1 Cor 10:31)
13. Did the Father exalt Jesus? (Phil 2:9-11, Eph 4:10)
14. Will you be exalted? (1 John 1:9, Col 3:1-3, 1 Cor 15:20-23, John 17:24)
15. Is the pastor exalting himself by leading the congregation? (Eph 4:1-6)

6:30 PM “Learn by Heart”

Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...

Hymn #488, stanza 3
Apostles' Creed, Third Article & meaning, p.301
Prov 25:14 and Eph 4:1

7:00 PM “Catechesis”

+ Opening Verses

“O Lord, open my lips...” p.224

+ Ascription of Praise

“Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia.” p.225

Reading

St. Luke 14:1-11 (back)

Hymn

“Sun of My Soul, O Savior Dear” #488

Catechesis on... (back)

St. Luke 14:1-11

Liturgy

Catechism

--prayer based on reading

+ Recite Word by Word insert

Ten Commandments
Lord's Prayer
Apostles' Creed
Sacrament of Holy Baptism
Matthew 28:19
Mark 16:16
Confession & Absolution
John 20:22-23
Sacrament of the Altar
Words of Institution
Collect of the Day
--prayer based on reading
R. AMEN
Benediction
R. AMEN

Catechesis on St. Luke 14:1-11

1Now it happened, as He went into the house of one of the rulers of the Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath, that they watched Him closely. 2And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had dropsy. 3And Jesus, answering, spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?” 4But they kept silent. And He took him and healed him, and let him go. 5Then He answered them, saying, “Which of you, having a donkey or an ox that has fallen into a pit, will not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?” 6And they could not answer Him regarding these things. 7So He told a parable to those who were invited, when He noted how they chose the best places, saying to them: 8“When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in the best place, lest one more honorable than you be invited by him; 9“and he who invited you and him come and say to you, ‘Give place to this man,’ and then you begin with shame to take the lowest place. 10“But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, go up higher.’ Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you. 11“For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (NKJV)

The True Worship(Divine Service)

“And the difference between this faith and the righteousness of the Law can be easily discerned. **Faith is the λατρεία [divine service], which receives the benefits offered by God; the righteousness of the Law is the λατρεία [divine service] which offers to God our merits.** By faith God wishes to be worshiped in this way, that we receive from Him those things which He promises and offers” (Ap, IV, 49).

“The woman {in Luke 7} came with the opinion concerning Christ that with Him the remission of sins should be sought. **This worship is the highest worship of Christ.** Nothing greater could she ascribe to Christ.

To seek from Him the remission of sins was truly to acknowledge the Messiah. Now, thus to think of Christ, thus to worship Him, thus to embrace Him, is truly to believe.(Ap IV 154).

Righteousness of the Law

“Thus the adversaries teach nothing but **the righteousness of reason, or certainly of the Law**, upon which they look just as the Jews upon the veiled face of Moses; and, in **secure hypocrites who think that they satisfy the Law**, they excite presumption and empty confidence in works [they place men on a sand foundation, their own works] and contempt of the grace of Christ. On the contrary, they drive timid consciences to despair, which laboring with doubt, never can experience what faith is, and how efficacious it is; thus, at last they utterly despair” (Ap IV, 21)

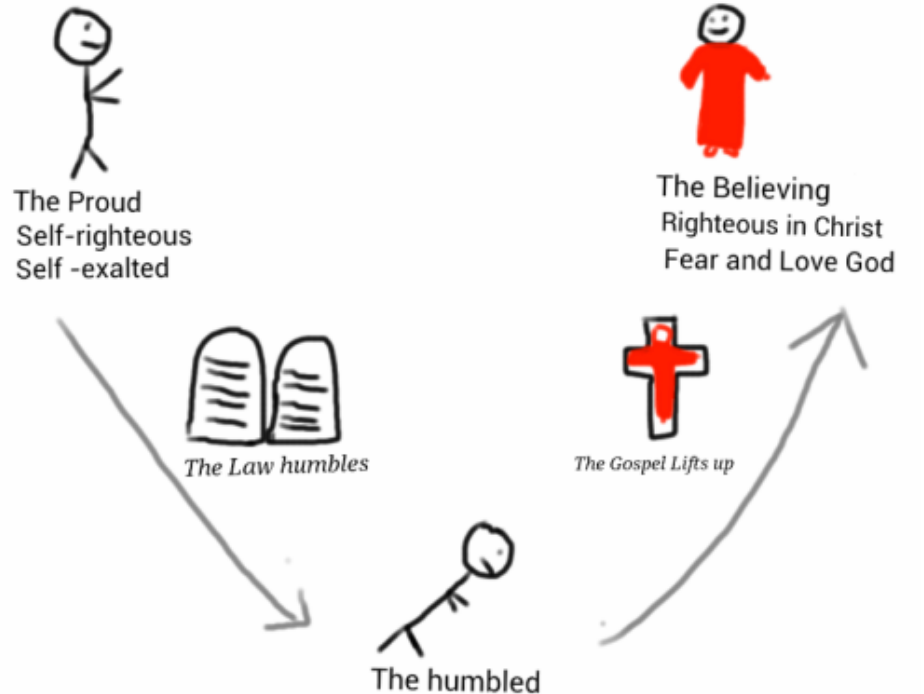
Self-Chosen Works by Man

“For every service of God, ordained and chosen of men without the commandment of God to merit justification and grace, is wicked, as Christ says Matt. 15, 9: 37] In vain do they worship Me with the commandments of men. And Paul teaches everywhere that righteousness is not to be sought from our own observances and acts of worship, devised by men, but that **it comes by faith to those who believe that they are received by God into grace for Christ’s sake**” (AC XXVII, 36-37).

Hypocrisy and False Humility

“Yet he was pointed to his own works, and comforted thus: The more fully [sincerely and frankly] one confesses, and the more he humiliates himself and debases himself before the priest, the sooner and better he renders satisfaction for his sins; for such humility certainly would earn grace before God. Here, too, **there was no faith nor Christ**, and the virtue of the absolution was not declared to him, but upon his enumeration of sins and his self-abasement depended his consolation” (SA III, 3, 19-20).

CATECHESIS ON ST. LUKE 14:1-11



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The Apostles' Creed, Third Article

“To this article, as I have said, I cannot give a better title than “Sanctification.” In it is expressed and portrayed the Holy Spirit and his office, which is that he makes us holy”(LC II 35).

Trinity(Holy Spirit’s Work Highlighted) in Sanctification

St. John 14-17, “1Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ... 6Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.... 10b The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.... 16And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that **He may abide with you forever— 17“the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for **He dwells with you and will be in you**. ...19“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. 20“At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” ...25“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26“**But the Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. John 15:7“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.... 26“**But when the Helper** comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. 27“**And you also will bear witness**, because you have been with Me from the beginning... John 16:12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13“**However, when He, the Spirit of truth**, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for **He will not speak on His own authority**(see v10b), but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14“**He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you**. 15“**All things that the Father has are Mine**. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. John 17:15“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16“**They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world**. 17“**Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth**. 18“**As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world**. 19“**And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth**.

The Holy Spirit in Old Testament

Genesis 1:1-3, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**”

Genesis 1:26, “Then God said, ‘Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’”

Exodus 31:3, “And I have filled him with **the Spirit of God**, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,”

Numbers 11:29, “Then Moses said to him, ‘Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put **His Spirit** upon them!’”

Psalms 51:10-12, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take **Your Holy Spirit** from me. 12Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.”

Psalms 139:7, “Where can I go from **Your Spirit**? Or where can I flee from Your presence?”

Isaiah 63:10-11, “But they rebelled and grieved **His Holy Spirit**; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, And He fought against them. 11Then he remembered the days of old, Moses and his people, saying: “Where is He who brought them up out of the sea With the shepherd of His flock? Where is He who put **His Holy Spirit** within them,”

Holy Spirit’s Work

³⁷ How does this sanctifying take place? Answer: Just as the Son obtains dominion by purchasing us through his birth, death, and resurrection, etc., so **the Holy Spirit effects our sanctification through the following: the communion of saints or Christian church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. In other words, he first leads us into his holy community, placing us upon the bosom of the church, where he preaches to us and brings us to Christ.**

⁸ Neither you nor I could ever know anything of Christ, or believe in him and take him as our Lord, unless these were first offered to us and bestowed on our hearts through **the preaching of the Gospel by the Holy Spirit**. The work is finished and completed, Christ has acquired and won the treasure for us by his sufferings, death, and resurrection, etc. But if the work remained hidden and no one knew of it, it would have been all in vain, all lost. In order that this treasure might not be buried but put to use and enjoyed, **God has caused the Word to be published and proclaimed, in which he has given the Holy Spirit to offer and apply to us this treasure of salvation.** ³⁹ Therefore to sanctify is nothing else than to bring us to the Lord Christ to receive this blessing, which we could not obtain by ourselves. (LC II 37-39)
1 Corinthians 6:11, “But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

The Apostles' Creed, Third Article

“The Word of God is the true holy thing (relic; German: *Heiligtum*) above all holy things. ... But God's Word is the treasure that sanctifies all things. By it all the saints themselves have been sanctified” (LC I, 91).

“How does this sanctifying take place? Answer: Just as the Son obtains dominion by purchasing us through his birth, death, and resurrection, etc., so **the Holy Spirit effects our sanctification through the following: the communion of saints or Christian church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. In other words, he first leads us into his holy community, placing us upon the bosom of the church, where he preaches to us and brings us to Christ** (LC II 37).

“Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe in and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting” (From “The Prayers” in Burial of the Dead)

The Holy Christian Church

“Therefore there was no Christian church. For where Christ is not preached, there is no Holy Spirit to create, call, and gather the Christian church, and outside it no one can come to the Lord Christ” (LC II, 45).

Acts 2:42, “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Ephesians 2:20, “...having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone....”

Ephesians 4:11-13, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

The Communion of Saints(Holy People or Holy Things)

Acts 2:38-39, “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; **and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** 39For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

Romans 8:9, “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have **the Spirit of Christ**, he is not His.”

Galatians 5:22-23, “But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Ephesians 5:18-20, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be **filled with the Spirit**, 19speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

The Forgiveness of Sins

“Therefore everything in the Christian church is so ordered that we may daily obtain full forgiveness of sins through the Word and through signs appointed to comfort and revive our consciences as long as we live. Although we have sin, the Holy Spirit sees to it that it does not harm us because we are in the Christian church, where there is full forgiveness of sin. God forgives us, and we forgive, bear with, and aid one another” (LC II 55).

2 Corinthians 5:19, “...that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us **the word of reconciliation.**”

Titus 3:5b “...but according to His mercy He saved us, through **the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit...**”

John 3:5-6, “Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**”

John 20:22-23, “22And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘**Receive the Holy Spirit.** 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’”

1 Corinthians 6:11, “But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

1 Corinthians 12:3, “Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.”

The Resurrection of the Body

“So troubles are inflicted on account of present sin because in the saints they kill and wipe out lust so that the Spirit may renew them. As Paul says (Rom. 8:10), “Your body is dead because of sin”; that is, it is being killed because of the sin still present and remaining in the flesh. ¹⁵³ Death itself serves this same purpose: **to destroy this sinful flesh so that we may rise completely renewed**” (Ap XII, 152-153)

Philippians 3:20-23, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

1 Corinthians 15:42-43, “So also is the resurrection of the dead. **The body** is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

1 Thessalonians 4:16, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise first.**”

The Life Everlasting

Revelation 22:17, “And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

Romans 15:13, “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound **in hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

John 3:36, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”