

Catechetical Series IV – The Six Chief Parts

General Notes

- This series can be done in six successive weeks or by some other schedule. Some congregations dedicate the six midweek Lenten services to a study and preaching of the Six Chief Parts of the *Catechism*.
- **Option for a seventh week:** The synodical *Catechism* includes a section on the Word of God. Although I have not included a sermon on that topic in this series or others, readers should feel free to include one. See *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (CPH, 2017), 46-50, for appropriate Scripture passages for such a sermon.
- **Hymns:** Luther's catechetical hymns will be the primary hymns used in this sermon series. Luther's longer catechetical hymns (*LSB* 581 & *LSB* 766) can be sung in parts during the Ten Commandments and Lord's Prayer services.
- **Variations in lectionary and hymns:** At times more than three scripture readings or hymns are suggested reflecting variations over the years. Additional lectionary notes follow the listings for each week.
- **Catechetical readings:** Generally, for this sermon series I chose one section of each of Luther's explanations of the *Catechism* for the catechetical reading which was read/confessed before or after the sermon. Those using this resource should select the section or sections that best fit with the main theme of the sermon.
- **Resource for confession of sins:** The first ten of the "Christian Questions with Their Answers" can be used as the confession of sins for the service on Confession and the Keys (*LSB*, 329). They could also be used as the confession of sins for the three Confession/Keys sermons in Part II of this catechetical series, or for other services in this catechetical series.

The Ten Commandments

- **Lectionary:** Exodus 20:1-17 **OR** Deuteronomy 5:1-21; Galatians 3:15-22; Matthew 5:17-26
- **Sermon title:** "God's Law - The Ten Commandments" Exodus 20:1-17
- **Catechetical reading:** One or two of the Commandments and their meanings can be selected to be read/confessed in the service (*LSB*, 321-322).
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 581 These Are the Holy Ten Commands, vv. 1-5 (ML)
 - 581 These Are the Holy Ten Commands, vv. 6-10
 - 581 These Are the Holy Ten Commands, vv. 11-12

The suggested scripture readings for the Ten Commandments sermon include the choice of the giving of the Law in either Exodus or Deuteronomy. The New Testament passages speak about Christ's fulfilling of the Law.

The Apostles' Creed

- **Lectionary:** Malachi 2:10-12; Galatians 5:16-25; Luke 18:31-34
- **Sermon title:** "Who Is the Lord of Hosts? - The Apostles' Creed" Malachi 2:10
- **Catechetical reading:** Select a portion of Luther's explanation to the Creed for the catechetical reading (*LSB*, 322-323).
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (ML)
 - 953 We All Believe in One True God (ML)
 - 837 Lift High the Cross **OR** 805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow **OR** 865 Lord, Help us Ever to Retain (ML)

The scripture readings for the sermon on the Creed reference God the Father (Malachi), God the Son (Luke), and God the Holy Spirit (Galatians). All three scripture readings should provide the scriptural basis for the sermon.

The Lord's Prayer

- **Lectionary:** Jonah 2:1-10 **OR** Jonah 4:1-4 **OR** 2 Chronicles 1:6-13; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 6:1-13
- **Sermon title:** "How's Your Prayer Life? - The Lord's Prayer" Matthew 6:1-13
- **Catechetical reading:** Select one or two petitions of the Lord's Prayer and Luther's explanation for the catechetical reading (*LSB*, 323-325).
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above, vv. 1-4 (ML)
 - 766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above, vv. 5-8
 - 766 Our Father, Who from Heaven Above, v. 9

The suggested scripture readings for the sermon on prayer feature the choice of Jonah's godly praying in the belly of the fish, his not so godly praying in the fourth chapter, and Solomon's godly praying in Chronicles. The Romans passage emphasizes the fact that it is Holy Spirit who is the One Who helps us to pray. The Matthew passage records the Lord's Prayer, the pattern for our prayers. This sermon should note that prayer is not one of the Means of Grace.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

- **Lectionary:** Genesis 17:1-14; Colossians 2:8-17; Matthew 28:16-20
- **Sermon title:** "What Does God Give Me in Baptism? – The Sacrament of Holy Baptism" Colossians 2:11-14
- **Catechetical reading:** Select one part of Luther's explanation and meaning to Holy Baptism for the catechetical reading (*LSB*, 325).
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me **OR**
 - 590 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy
 - 406 To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord **OR**
 - 407 To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord (ML)
 - 601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized **OR**
 - 592 Dearest Jesus, We Are Here **OR**
 - 596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized

The passages for the sermon on Baptism note the Old Testament rite of circumcision (Genesis 17), which is the foreshadowing of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, circumcision's tie to Baptism and the benefits of Baptism in

the Colossians passage, and Christ's institution of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in Matthew's Gospel.

The Office of the Keys and Confession

- ***Lectionary:*** Daniel 9:1-19; 1 Peter 2:1-10 **OR** Revelation 1:1-6; Luke 6:12-16 **OR** John 20:19-23
- ***Sermon titles***
 - "Who Has the Keys? - The Office of the Keys and Confession" John 20:19-23 **OR**
 - "What Do These Keys Do? - The Office of the Keys and Confession" John 20:19-23 **OR**
 - "What Have You Done with Your Keys? - The Office of the Keys and Confession" John 20:19-23
- ***Catechetical reading:*** Select one part of Luther's explanation and meaning to Confession and the Keys for the catechetical reading (*LSB*, 326).
- ***Suggested hymns***
 - 606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus
 - 607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee (ML)
 - 608 Lord, to You I Make Confession **OR**
 - 610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me **OR**
 - 616 Baptismal Waters Cover Me **OR**
 - 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

The passages for the Keys and Confession sermon have Daniel confessing his sins and the sins of Israel (Daniel 9), and teach about the royal priesthood, that is baptized Christians who hold the Keys (1 Peter 2). The Revelations passage states that believers are kings and priests in God's Kingdom. The Luke passage tells about Christ selecting the 12 Apostles, the clergy who administer the Keys publicly on behalf of Christ and His Church. The John passage states that Christ has given the Keys to the Church. The three sermon titles illustrate variations over the years.

The Sacrament of the Altar

- **Lectionary:** Exodus 12:1-14, 43-49; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30; Matthew 26:26-29
- **Sermon title:** “Christ’s Last Will and Testament – The Lord’s Supper” Matthew 26:26-29
- **Catechetical reading:** Select one part of Luther’s explanation and meaning to the Sacrament of the Altar for the catechetical reading (*LSB*, 326-327).
- **Suggested hymns**
 - 618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table
 - 617 O Lord, We Praise Thee (ML)
 - 621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence **OR**
 - 629 What Is This Bread **OR**
 - 633 At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing **OR**
 - 643 Sent Forth by God’s Blessing **OR**
 - 627 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior (ML)

The scripture readings for the Sacrament of the Altar speak about the Passover, the Old Testament foreshadowing of the Sacrament of the Altar, and includes two passages from the New Testament which speak of the Sacrament of the Altar. The sermon title reflects the wording of *LSB*’s text of Luther’s *Catechism* (*LSB*, p. 325), and the wording of the Verba in the *LSB* liturgies. See also *Luther’s Works*, 35: 75-111.