

My First Catechism



An Illustrated Version of
Luther's Small Catechism



My First Catechism

**The Small Catechism
of
Dr. Martin Luther
illustrated with pictures
and narratives
from God's Word**



Second Edition

Copyright © 2004, 2005 Concordia Publishing House
3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118-3968
1-800-325-3040 • www.cph.org

All rights reserved. Used with permission. Other than downloading and reproduction for congregational use, no part of this material may be stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, without prior written permission of Concordia Publishing House. For ordering information, please contact Concordia at 800-325-3040 or visit Concordia at www.cph.org. Order *My First Catechism* (22-3052WEB).

Prepared and edited by Rodney L. Rathmann; Erik Rottmann, consultant

Scripture quotations marked NIV are from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Catechism quotations are from LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM WITH EXPLANATION, copyright © 1986, 1991 Concordia Publishing House.

This publication may be available in braille, in large print, or on cassette tape for the visually impaired. Please allow 8 to 12 weeks for delivery. Write to the Library for the Blind, 7550 Watson Rd., St. Louis, MO 63119-4409; call toll-free 1-888-215-2455; or visit the Web site: www.blindmission.org.

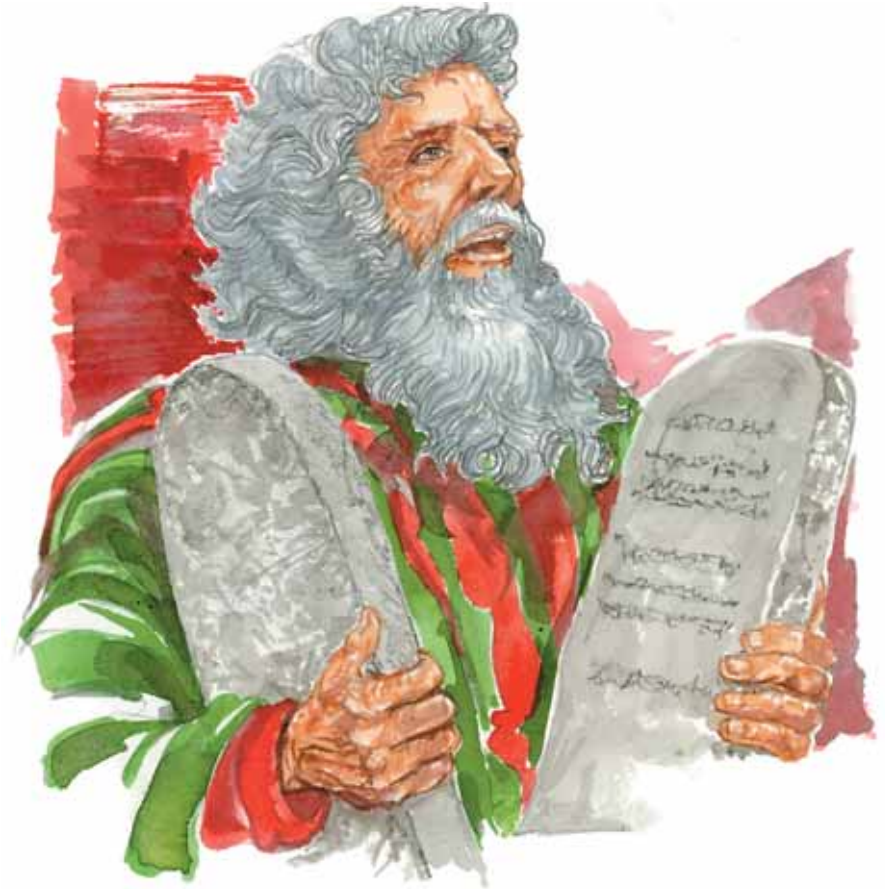
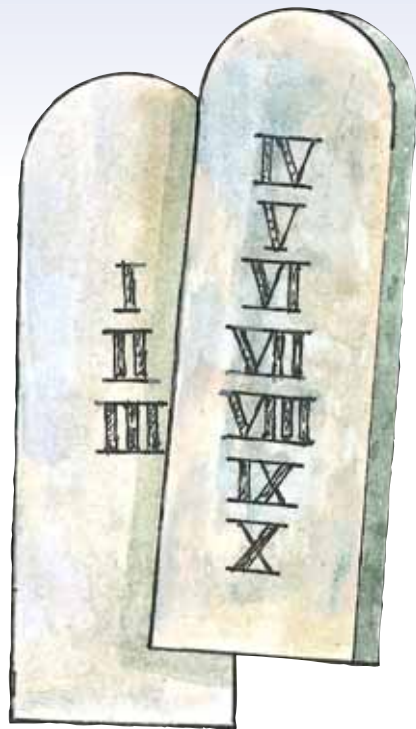
Manufactured in the United States of America

Contents

The Ten Commandments	6
The Apostles' Creed	32
The Lord's Prayer	52
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism	72
Confession	82
The Sacrament of the Altar	90
Daily Prayers	98
Table of Duties	102
Christian Questions with Their Answers	110
Books of the Bible	116
Creeds and Confessions	118
The Church Year	120
"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"	124
"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"	126
"Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain	128

The Ten Commandments

AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY
SHOULD TEACH THEM IN A SIMPLE WAY
TO HIS HOUSEHOLD



God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses and His people long ago on Mount Sinai.

Long ago God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt. He brought them from Egypt to a mountain called Sinai. With lightning and thunder and smoke and fire, God descended onto the mountain. God called Moses to come up to the mountain (Exodus 19:17–20). Here God wrote Ten Commandments on two flat pieces of stone. The commandments tell us how we are to live (Exodus 20:1–17). God gave us the commandments because He loves us. God sent Jesus to earn forgiveness for the times we break the commandments.

The First Commandment
 You shall have no other gods.



Once a wicked king commanded all the people to bow down and worship a statue. The people did as the king commanded, except for three men who believed in God. When they refused to worship the statue, the king ordered them to be thrown into a hot furnace and burned. But God was with the men. He sent an angel to protect them in the furnace. The men who trusted in God were not burned. “Come out of the furnace!” called the king. “There is no god like your God. He saves His people!” (Daniel 3)

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.



Long ago God told a man named Abraham to take his son Isaac to a mountaintop. God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on an altar. Abraham and Isaac were willing to obey. But God was only testing their faith. Instead of Isaac, God provided a ram for the sacrifice (Genesis 22:1–19). Isaac reminds us of Jesus, the Lamb of God who willingly gave His life to save all people from their sins.

The Apostles' Creed

AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY
SHOULD TEACH IT IN A SIMPLE WAY
TO HIS HOUSEHOLD



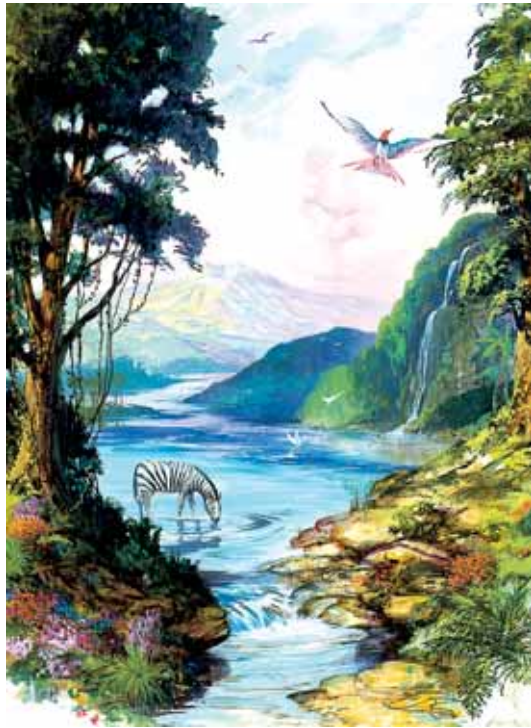
Long ago, at just the right time, God sent His Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, to be our Savior. Shortly after Jesus' birth, Wise Men from a distant land followed a star so that they might worship the Savior (Matthew 2:1-11). The true God is the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There are three persons and only one God. This truth about God is very difficult to understand. Yet God gives spiritual wisdom to those who trust in Him. God loves us. He wants "all [people] to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4 NIV). God invites us all to come to Him in worship.

The First Article

CREATION

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 takes care of them.



He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

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



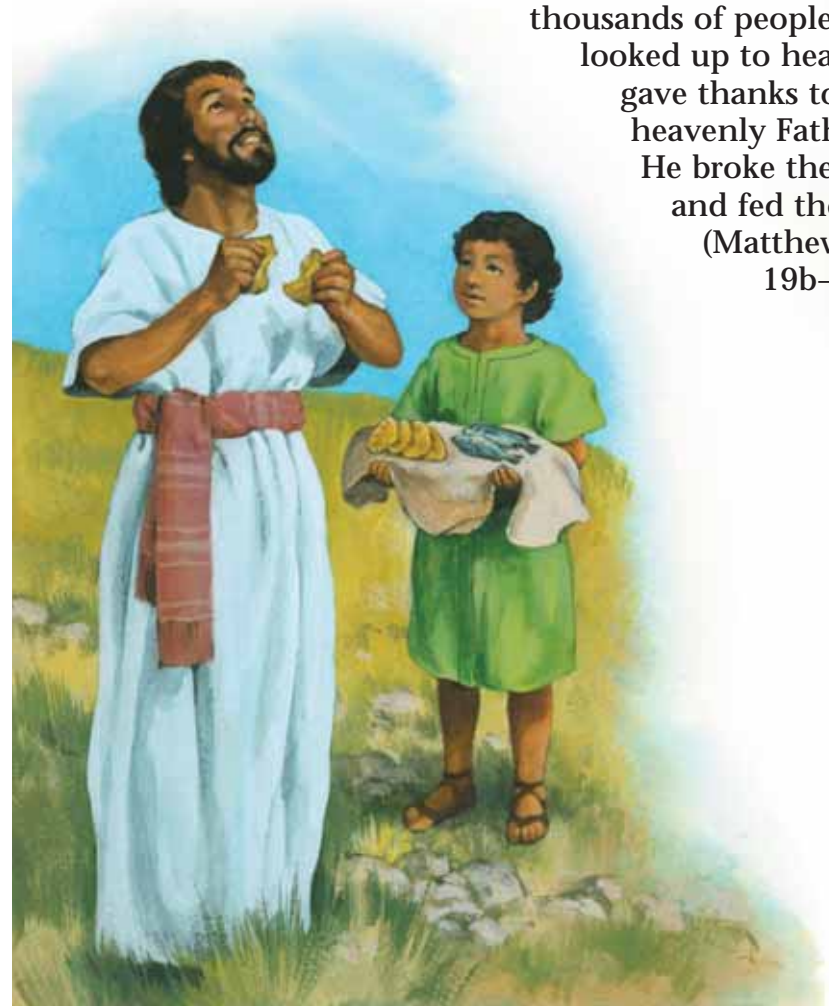
At the beginning of time, God made all things. He created the earth and all the planets, the sun, moon, and stars, all the trees and plants, fish, birds, creeping things, and all land animals. Finally, God made Adam and Eve, the first people. He gave them a beautiful home called the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were very happy. God made all of this in just six days. Then He rested. Everything God made was good. Unlike now, there was no sin in the world at its beginning (Genesis 1-2). Because we know Jesus as our Savior, one day we will have a wonderful home in heaven just like the Garden of Eden.

The Lord's Prayer

AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY
SHOULD TEACH IT IN A SIMPLE WAY
TO HIS HOUSEHOLD

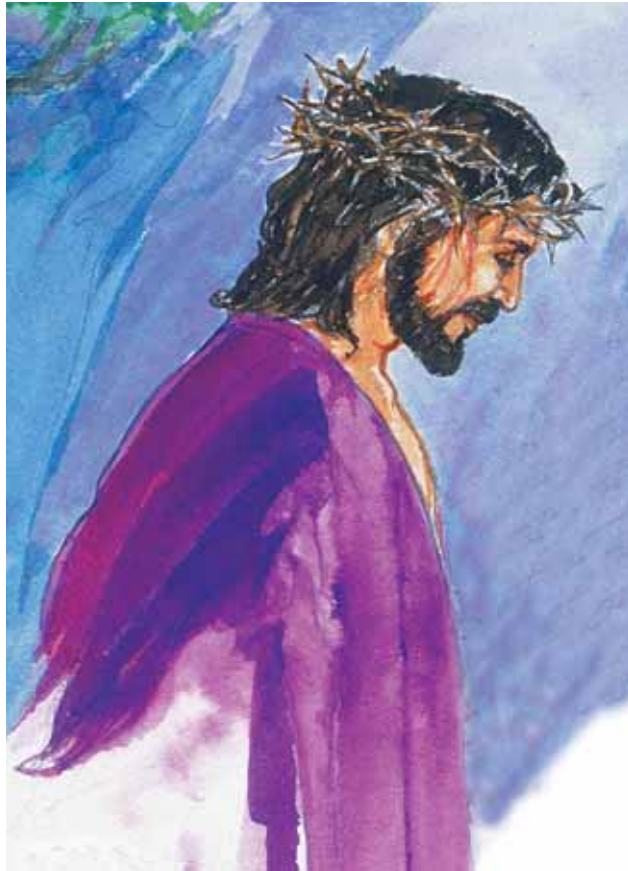


Jesus taught by what He said and did. Once, Jesus' disciples asked Him how they were to pray. Jesus taught them the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). Sometime later, before He did a miracle to feed thousands of people, Jesus looked up to heaven and gave thanks to His heavenly Father. Then He broke the loaves and fed the people (Matthew 14:19b-21).



The Introduction

Our Father, who art in heaven.



We have a Father in heaven who loves us. He cares so much about us that He sent His only Son to earth to pay the penalty we deserve because of our sins. Our Father in heaven always wants what's best for us. God's Word asks, "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ... How much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:9-11; quote: NIV)

What does this mean? With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.

Jesus taught His followers about His Father's love for all people. He invites us to call God our Father and to come to Him in prayer, confident of His care for us. Psalm 103:13 (NIV) reminds us, "As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him." The Apostle John wrote, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1 NIV).

