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Continuing Discipleship – Session 3
16 July 2025

A Short Introduction to the Liturgy

a. Invocation

i. “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 that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20

b. Confession

i. “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” 1 John 1:8-9

c. Absolution

i. “And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” John 20:22-23

What are the truths, or doctrines, that come from this story and Scripture? Luther’s Small Catechism

1. The Six Chief Parts

a. The Ten Commandments

i. The commandments show how we are to love God and others. However, the commandments will always reveal our sin because they serve as a mirror.

b. The Creed

i. The Creed confesses what we believe about the Triune God and how He has worked in salvation history to give us the gift of eternal life.

c. The Lord’s Prayer

i. Saved by the work of Christ confessed in the creed, prayer (specifically the Lord’s Prayer) is our response to grace and our relationship with God.

d. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

i. Baptism is the Sacrament (word+promise+visible element) by which most of us began our journey of faith. “Baptism is not just plain water.

e. Confession and Absolution

i. Confession is how we are honest in our life of faith concerning our sin.

f. The Sacrament of the Altar

i. The Lord’s Supper is food for our journey of faith, God’s presence with us.

1. The First Commandment – You shall have no other gods.

a. “Search and examine your own heart thoroughly, and you will discover whether or not it clings to God alone. If you have the sort of heart that expects nothing but good, especially in distress and need, and renounces and forsakes all that is not God, then you have the one, true God.” Martin Luther, *The Large Catechism*

2. The Second Commandment – You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

- a. "Lying and deceiving are themselves great sins, but they become much more serious when we try to justify and confirm them by invoking God's name and thus make it into a cloak to hide our shame."
3. The Third Commandment – Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
 - a. "Because so much depends on God's Word that no holy day is sanctified without it, we must realize that God wants this commandment to be kept strictly and will punish all who despise his Word and refuse to hear and learn it, especially at the times appointed."
4. The Fourth Commandment – Honor your father and your mother.
 - a. "Therefore, we are not to think of their persons, whatever they may be, but of the will of God, who has created and ordained it so. We are indeed all equal in God's sight, but among ourselves it is impossible for there not to be this sort of inequality and proper distinction."
5. The Fifth Commandment – You shall not murder.
 - a. "In short, God wants to have everyone defended, delivered, and protected from the wickedness and violence of others, and he has placed this commandment as a wall, fortress, and refuge around our neighbors, so that no one may do them bodily harm or injury."
6. The Sixth Commandment – You shall not commit adultery.
 - a. "Wherever marital chastity is to be maintained, above all it is essential that husband and wife live together in love and harmony, cherishing each other wholeheartedly and with perfect fidelity. This is one of the chief ways to make chastity attractive and desirable. Under such conditions chastity always follows spontaneously without any command."
7. The Seventh Commandment – You shall not steal.
 - a. Enough has been said about what stealing is. It should not be narrowly restricted, but it should pertain to anything that has to do with our neighbor."
8. The Eighth Commandment – You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
 - a. "God wants to hold in check whatever is done with the tongue against the neighbor. This applies to false preachers with their blasphemous teaching, to false judges and witnesses with their rulings in court and their lying and malicious talk outside of court. It applies especially to the detestable, shameless vice of backbiting or slander by which the devil rides us. Of this much could be said. It is a common, pernicious plague that everyone would rather hear evil than good about their neighbor. Even though we ourselves are evil, we cannot tolerate it when anyone speaks evil of us; instead, we want to hear the whole world say golden things of us. Yet we cannot bear it when someone says the best things about others."
9. The Ninth Commandment – You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
 - a. "Such is nature that no one wants someone else to have as much as he or she does. Everyone tries to accumulate as much as he or she can, and let others look out for themselves. Yet we all consider ourselves upright people, and put up a fine front to conceal our villainy."
10. The Tenth Commandment – You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.
 - a. "First, we are commanded not to desire to harm our neighbors, nor to assist in doing harm, nor to give occasion for it. Instead, we are gladly to let them have what is theirs and to promote and protect whatever may be profitable and serviceable to them, just as we wish others would do for us."