



ARMED FORCES MINISTRY BOOK

Issued Under the Auspices of the
Ministry to the Armed Forces
of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

ARMED FORCES MINISTRY BOOK (031207)



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INTRODUCTION

Our Lord Jesus, who cannot lie, promised that He would neither leave us nor forsake us. Christ reminds us that we will never march alone. “They Shall Not March Alone” has been the theme for the Ministry to the Armed Forces of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) since before World War II. As a church, we have provided Word and Sacrament ministry to those who have served in the military since the Civil War.

Our church has always made the promise to support the men and women who selflessly serve our nation, that they shall not march alone. We have promised to provide spiritual support for those who answer the call of our nation by providing LCMS chaplains and resources.

To the servicemen and servicewomen of our United States armed forces, we pray that *Armed Forces Ministry Book* will remind you that you truly never march alone. Your Lord promises to be with you always, and that means “in every clime and place” where you are called to serve (“The Marines’ Hymn”). May this book provide you with prayers, services, hymns, and other resources for your spiritual life.

This book is not intended only for chaplains rostered in the LCMS but for all military personnel and their families. It will also be a wonderful blessing to those who serve in other institutional settings. Your Lord goes with you. Your fellow saints pray for

INTRODUCTION

you and with you. Wherever you find yourself in your vocation, may this resource assure you of the eternal truth that you will not march alone.

In Christ,
Rev. Craig G. Muehler, CAPT, CHC, USN (Ret.)
Ministry to the Armed Forces Endorser
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Preparing for war means praying for peace. *Armed Forces Ministry Book* is designed to support all chaplains and members of the armed forces who proclaim the ultimate peace from Christ, as foretold through the prophet Isaiah: “He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4).

This resource contains rites, blessings, hymns, and prayers that military chaplains will need for ministering spiritual care to the men and women of the armed forces. Additionally, this book addresses a wide range of issues that chaplains may encounter when ministering to individual service members in the field. Each section of resources includes an introductory paragraph that gives chaplains suggestions on how to minister Law and Gospel to service members in a particular crisis or need, as well as suggested Scripture readings, which are printed at the back of the book. There is also resource material that assists chaplains in leading service members through various occasions, such as celebrations or difficult challenges. Similarly, service members will find this book invaluable for private and family devotional use, one-on-one consultations with chaplains, and participation in worship services.

We are grateful to the numerous individuals who offered feedback throughout the formation and development of this resource.

Several individuals made meaningful contributions, and we are grateful to the following for their experience, input, and guidance:

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+VDMA+

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Armed Forces Ministry Book Committee

KEY TO TERMINOLOGY

Notes—Statements that appear *within a box* provide instructions, considerations, or additional resources.

Rubrics—Rubrics are bold and italicized directions that are used throughout the services to describe how the rite is to be conducted. Rubrics use simple, declarative sentences to identify what is ordinarily done in the service (e.g., *kneel/stand* and *one or more of the following are read*).

“May” Rubrics—Rubrics that contain the word *may* are optional and may or may not be followed according to the needs of the particular circumstance or according to a chaplain’s judgment.

- P** Presiding minister or chaplain (ordained)
- L** Liturgist or leader (ordained or lay)
- C** Congregation
- R** Responding individual(s) or group, but not the entire congregation
- ✠ The sign of the cross may be made by the presiding minister or chaplain and/or the congregation.
- △ Indicates a doxological hymn stanza—that is, a stanza that contains words of praise or prayer addressed to the triune God.

YOUR CHURCH'S PRAYER FOR YOU*Psalm 121:8*

The Lord preserve thy going out
Our country's call to heed,
That freedom's blessings may abide
And heal the hearts that bleed.

The Lord preserve thee far from home
Amid unnumbered ills
And cause thee to lift up thine eyes
Unto His heavenly hills.

The Lord uphold thee with His hand
And be thy Strength and Might,
Thy shade against the sun by day,
Thy Shelter through the night.

The Lord who slumbers not nor sleeps
Keep watch and guard thee well;
For He it is, and He alone,
That keepeth Israel.

The Lord preserve thy precious soul,
Thy body undefiled,
And fold thee in His gracious arms
From all the world enisled.

The Lord preserve thy coming in
When strife and warfare cease
And bring thee home or let thee share
His everlasting peace.

W. M. Czamanske, 1873–1964





FOR THE CHAPLAIN

In 1526, a knight named Asa von Kram was troubled in his conscience by the death and killing inherent to his profession. So, he sought pastoral guidance and counsel from Martin Luther. Luther recognized that the vocation of a knight was a calling to confront death. And standing before this ancient foe “is the very time when we ought most to be mindful of God and the soul.” This, then, is the task of the chaplain: God has called us to stand with those who confront death, making them mindful of God and the soul. Our Shepherd stands at the forefront, and we fight the wolves, with Him employing His Word as our only weapon. We stand with today’s knights, against the fear and despair, the guilt and the trauma, the emptiness and exhaustion, and all that this book discusses. We point our people to Him who holds the field victorious.

Deuteronomy 20:1–4 • Psalm 46 • Proverbs 1:1–7
Ecclesiastes 8:1–9 • Daniel 2:20–23 • Matthew 28:18–20
Acts 20:29–32 • 2 Timothy 4:1–5 • 1 Peter 5:1–4

Luther’s sacristy prayer

O Lord God, dear Father in heaven, I am indeed unworthy of the office and ministry in which I am to make known Your glory and to nurture and serve this congregation.

But since You have appointed me to be a pastor and teacher, and the people are in need of the teaching and the instruction, be my helper and let Your holy angels attend me. ►

Then if You are pleased to accomplish anything through me, to Your glory and not to mine or to the praise of men, grant me, out of Your pure grace and mercy, a right understanding of Your Word and that I may also diligently perform it.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, shepherd and bishop of our souls, send Your Holy Spirit that He may work with me to will and to do through Your divine strength according to Your good pleasure.

For faithfulness

Lord Jesus, my Shepherd, You have called me to serve a people who must confront death. I am wholly unfit for such a daunting task, and on my own, I would run in fear or fall by weakness. But You have conquered death and all evil and stand ready to fight for me and my people. Grant me courage that, following You, I would stand with my people in war and in peace. Grant me strength by Your Word, the sword of the Spirit, that I would fight against all evils of body and soul that threaten my people. And grant me wisdom that I would always point them to You amidst all that attacks body and soul so that they would find peace in You; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

For my people

O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You have called me to serve as a chaplain amidst the challenges of the armed forces. As our Creator, You have given my people both body and soul, and You daily take care of them. Bless the work You have given me to do, that through it, their physical and spiritual well-being would prosper. As our Redeemer, You entered into our fallen world to redeem us from sin, death, and the devil. Open the eyes of my people, who walk in darkness, that they would see Your salvation. As our Sanctifier, You call, gather, and enlighten Your whole church throughout the world. Therefore, wherever my people are, create and sustain faith in them

by Your Holy Word and Sacraments that they would have eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

For the Chaplain Corps

Merciful Lord, You have given the Chaplain Corps—both chaplains and enlisted—to the armed forces. Any strength and faithfulness we have is from You; weaknesses and failures are our own. In spite of ourselves, You continue to nourish the souls of those under our care by the work You have given us to do. Though we come from many different backgrounds, unite us in what is good and true, but let us never compromise the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Guide our chaplain leadership, that they would lead us in Your ways. Direct and order all who minister among our units, that they would provide for the spiritual needs of our service members. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon those who preach Your Word and administer Your Sacraments, that Your people would grow in faith and Your church expand; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Making moral decisions

O Lord, Your Law is perfect, reviving the soul; Your commandment is pure, enlightening the eyes. In Your wisdom, You have bestowed the sword upon the armed forces. Instill respect for this responsibility in those who answer the call, that they would wield this power with holy fear. As our service members are daily confronted with moral decisions, guide them by Your Word, that they would conduct themselves with integrity and virtue. Bestow wisdom and courage upon all chaplains, that they would advise their leadership according to Your truth. Through this advisement, grant good and well-instructed consciences to all who fight, that their hearts would be bold and their fists more powerful; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



PERSONAL LIFE

■ ADDICTION AND COPING ■

Military life beats down service members, leaving them wounded and exhausted. They must learn to cope by using God's gifts of family and friends, personal resiliency, trusted mental health professionals, and, most importantly, God's Word and Sacraments. But some are overwhelmed by extraordinary circumstances or simply by a failure (for whatever reason) to use the gifts that God has given them. They often turn to alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography, high-risk activities, or other addictions to cope. They hope to forget, numb the pain, fill something that's missing, or just survive. The chaplain encourages those struggling with addiction to use God's gifts mentioned above, yet he must be aware of his limitations. If he has not worked much with people who are suffering with addictions, he might talk to another chaplain or a trusted mental health professional who has. Yet God has given him a vital role to bring Law and Gospel and Word and Sacrament to the struggling service member. Only in Christ will a wounded sinner find healing and a way to fully cope.

Psalm 107:1–22 ■ Proverbs 23:29–35 ■ Romans 7:15–25; 13:11–14
1 Corinthians 6:19–20 ■ Hebrews 12:1–6

For the individual

Lord God, our Maker and Redeemer, in our human frailty, we struggle to survive in this fallen world. Yet by Your grace, You supply us with everything we need. But in a foolish effort to cope, name

has turned to the sinful addiction of alcohol / drugs / gambling / pornography / high-risk activities / other . By Your Holy Spirit, give him/her the courage to repent of his/her sin and to daily turn to You for healing. Provide him/her with Your good gifts of family and friends, resiliency, and supportive mental health care. But most importantly, may he/she find in Christ, our Savior, true coping in this distress and rest for his/her soul; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Gracious God, You are the strength of all who put their trust in You. We pray for name , who is enslaved by alcohol / drugs / gambling / pornography / high-risk activities / other . Deliver him/her from all that would hold him/her captive that by Your grace he/she may walk in newness of life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

For a recovering addict

Loving Father, You sent Your Son to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Sustain name as he/she recovers from addiction to alcohol / drugs / gambling / pornography / high-risk activities / other . Strengthen him/her by Your Holy Spirit that, the bonds of his/her addiction being broken, he/she may be restored to fullness of life in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

For the family

Heavenly Father, shed the light of Your mercy upon the family and loved ones of name , and dispel the dark night of his/her addiction. Turn sorrow into joy, pain into gladness, and worry and anxiety into a confident hope in You and in Your gracious promises. Bring healing to this family and to name that his/her dependency may be given over to You. Grant that his/her sin be forgiven and that a renewal of love and unity take place; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



FAMILY AND FRIENDS

■ FINDING A SPOUSE ■

All too often, service members make poor decisions about dating and finding a spouse. Young and naive, they simply do not have God's perspective on these matters. Foolish behavior such as wild partying, engaging in premarital sex, proposing just to get out of the barracks, and marrying the wrong person creates all kinds of problems. Chaplains have the opportunity through counseling and singles retreats to give service members the tools they need to make better decisions. Adhering to the design for marriage that God has revealed in the Scriptures can help them find a good spouse and cultivate a happy marriage.

Genesis 1:26–28; 2:18, 21–24 • Song of Solomon 1:15—2:4
1 Corinthians 6:15—7:2; 13 • Ephesians 5:22–33
Hebrews 13:4 • 1 Peter 3:1–7

Dating

O God, You created us male and female in a wondrous harmony of companionship and support. As name seeks Your guidance in dating, open up opportunities for him/her to meet respectable ladies/gentlemen and grant him/her discernment to recognize Your path for his/her life. Provide him/her with supportive friends who are a positive influence. In the midst of temptation, keep his/her ways pure. In accordance with Your will, provide a good woman/man who would be right for him/her; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

For a good relationship with girlfriend or boyfriend

Lord God, whose love is patient and kind, not arrogant and rude, we thank You for the relationship between name and name. Establish a foundation of godly love so that they would serve one another in all faithfulness. Teach them to communicate with honesty and respect, and when this fails, guide them to repentance and forgiveness in Christ. Keep their ways pure, and give them discernment to recognize Your will for this relationship; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Breaking up

Lord God, whose love does not insist on its own way, for many reasons, name and name have gone their separate ways. Where name has done wrong, lead him/her to repentance so that he/she would find forgiveness in Christ. Where name has been wronged, let Your forgiveness flow through him/her. Comfort him/her in this loss and lead him/her in the path You would have him/her go; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The decision to propose

Father in heaven, in wisdom, You once brought Adam and Eve together as husband and wife. As name contemplates a proposal of marriage to name, grant him/her wisdom to see marriage as the union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind intended by You for mutual companionship, help, and support, both in prosperity and adversity. May he/she make this decision reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purpose with which You instituted this honorable estate; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



MINISTERING TO THE SICK AND DYING

■ VISITING THE SICK AND INJURED ■

The chaplain should encourage his service members to notify him when they or their family members are hospitalized, have medical tests, undergo minor procedures, or incur any other serious sickness or injuries. A pastoral visit fosters key connections, provides needed comfort, and offers prayer to Him who heals both body and soul.

Psalms 23; 46:1–7; 103:1–5 ■ Matthew 8:16–17; 9:35–36
Luke 6:17–23 ■ Romans 8:26–28

Additional resources may be found on pages 121–24, Anointing the Sick.

General

Father of all mercy, You never fail to help those who call on You for help. Give strength and confidence to Your son/daughter in his/her time of great need that he/she may know that You are near and that You uphold him/her with Your everlasting arms. Grant that, resting on Your protection, he/she may fear no evil, for You are with him/her to comfort and deliver him/her; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



UNIT CARE

■ NEW ASSIGNMENTS ■

Military assignments change constantly. Oftentimes, just as a service member is getting situated in a new unit and a new home, it is time to move again. This creates anxiety for a service member and his or her family and friends. It also upends the service member's support system. And at some point, his or her military career will come to an end, which means he or she must navigate new challenges as he or she transitions to civilian life. Throughout these changes, the chaplain is there to provide support, offer counsel and comfort by God's Word, and lift up the service member and his or her family in prayer.

Joshua 1:8–9 ■ Psalms 121; 139:1–10 ■ Proverbs 3:5–6; 16:1–3
Matthew 6:25–33 ■ Luke 10:38–42 ■ James 4:13–15

General

Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Welcome to the unit

Father in heaven, You once called Your servant Abraham to leave his home for a new land that You would show him. And now You have called name (and his/her family) to a new duty station ►

and a new unit. We thank You for safe travel and pray that You would continue to watch over him/her/them here at name of duty station . Bless his/her/their time at the name of unit , that he/she/they would find fulfillment in his/her/their calling and that his/her/their home would be filled with joy and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Farewell and Godspeed

Dear Lord, as we bid farewell to our beloved friend and comrade name , we give thanks for the time given and the bonds built. As he/she prepares for this next chapter, we ask You to send Your holy angels to watch over him/her so that the evil foe may have no power over him/her . Be his/her constant companion, providing strength and comfort in times of uncertainty. Be his/her peace, which will surpass all human understanding. We commend name into Your care, trusting in Your unfailing mercy and knowing that You go before him/her and will be with him/her always. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Moving

Lord God, Your gracious presence attends Your people wherever they go. Be with name , whose life is in transition as he/she (and his/her family) move(s) from a familiar home to a new community. Support him/her/them in times of challenge or loneliness, and surround him/her/them with caring Christian people so that he/she/they may find welcome and peace in his/her/their new duty station and joy in Your ongoing kindness and love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (alt.)

Separation from the military—Informal setting

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Name has finished his/her time in the military and is ready to



MILITARY AND SECULAR OBSERVANCES

■ MILITARY OBSERVANCES ■

We thank God that He has given our armed forces the sword to defend our nation. The birthdays of each branch recognize the very days that He gave them this responsibility. Though we would prefer to live in peace, we dare not shirk our duty to confront evil in this world. Because those who take up this calling carry a great burden, they need support. God equips chaplains to provide pastoral care to service members and to ensure that such power is carried out with courage and honor. Therefore, these observances are not merely recognitions of special milestones, but they are also recognitions that the blessings we have in the military come from God Himself.

2 Kings 5:1–14 ■ Isaiah 45:1–7 ■ Luke 3:14
Romans 13:1–7 ■ 1 Peter 2:13–17

Army

Army Birthday June 14, 1775

Army Reserve Birthday April 23, 1908

National Guard Birthday December 13, 1636

Almighty God, Lord of hosts, You have ordained the sword for the armed forces to defend our nation against those who threaten the good heritage You have bestowed upon us. And so, _____ years ago, the Army / Army Reserve / National Guard was born. Since then, You have called brave men and women to fight our nation's wars by



DAILY PRAYER

The following devotions may be used by Christians, alone or in a group, as fits in their operational schedule. While there may not be time to devote oneself to hearing the Word multiple times a day, each outline has a distinctive character in keeping with that period of wakefulness. Morning Prayer should be used in conjunction with the start of the working period, since some schedules require service members to be awake throughout the night. Likewise, Noon and Evening Prayers should follow at the midwork point of the day and before one lays their head down to rest.

It is recommended that the outline be followed for simplicity, not adding multiple readings except when in need of comfort. Christians are welcome to add additional prayers from the heart as the need arises. Yet our Lord Jesus in Matthew 6:8–13 says, “For your Father knows what you need before you ask Him. Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’” We should take instruction from Christ, pouring out our concerns to Him, but we should also recognize that our dear Father knows what we need.

Paul also tells us, “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And He who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the

■ MORNING PRAYER ■

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

L In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b*

C Amen.

L In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;

C in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch. *Psalms 5:3*

L My mouth is filled with Your praise,

C and with Your glory all the day. *Psalms 71:8*

L O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare Your praise. *Psalms 51:15*

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

A hymn may be sung or spoken (pp. 200–201).

A selection from Scripture (pp. 304–405) or Luther's Small Catechism (pp. 289–302) may be read.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,



rites

■ EMERGENCY BAPTISM ■

In urgent situations, in the absence of a chaplain, any Christian may administer Holy Baptism. Ensure water is readily available before the Baptism rite.

If time permits, the following may precede the Baptism.

ADDRESS

- ☐ Jesus said, “Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.” And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:15–16 NKJV

- ☐ Eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give name(s) Your grace through rebirth by the Holy Spirit. Receive him/her/them according to Your promise: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you,” that through this heavenly washing he/she/they may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of all his/her/their sins and come to the eternal kingdom which You have prepared for him/her/them ; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Matthew 7:7



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■ SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME ■

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come,
Vir - gin's Son, make here Your home!
Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.

4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.

5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

Proper 16 (Sunday on August 21–27) or Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>A Isaiah 51:1–6
Psalm 138 (v. 8a)
Romans 11:33–12:8
Matthew 16:13–20</p> | <p>C Isaiah 66:18–23
Psalm 50:1–15 (v. 23)
Hebrews 12:4–24 (25–29)
Luke 13:22–30</p> |
| <p>B Isaiah 29:11–19
Psalm 14 (v. 7a)
Ephesians 5:22–33
Mark 7:1–13</p> | <p>1Yr. Proverbs 4:10–23
Psalm 119:9–16 (v. 12)
Galatians 5:16–24
Luke 17:11–19</p> |

Proper 17 (Sunday on August 28–September 3) or Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>A Jeremiah 15:15–21
Psalm 26 (v. 8)
Romans 12:9–21
Matthew 16:21–28</p> | <p>C Proverbs 25:2–10
Psalm 131 (v. 2)
Hebrews 13:1–17
Luke 14:1–14</p> |
| <p>B Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9
Psalm 119:129–136 (v. 132)
Ephesians 6:10–20
Mark 7:14–23</p> | <p>1Yr. 1 Kings 17:8–16
Psalm 146 (v. 9a)
Galatians 5:25–6:10
Matthew 6:24–34</p> |

Proper 18 (Sunday on September 4–10) or Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>A Ezekiel 33:7–9
Psalm 32:1–7 (v. 1)
Romans 13:1–10
Matthew 18:1–20</p> | <p>C Deuteronomy 30:15–20
Psalm 1 (v. 6)
Philemon 1–21
Luke 14:25–35</p> |
| <p>B Isaiah 35:4–7a
Psalm 146 (v. 2)
James 2:1–10, 14–18
Mark 7:(24–30) 31–37</p> | <p>1Yr. 1 Kings 17:17–24
Psalm 30 (v. 5b)
Ephesians 3:13–21
Luke 7:11–17</p> |



LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

SECTION 1

The Ten Commandments

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

The First Commandment

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in
God above all things.

The Second Commandment

You shall not misuse the name
of the Lord your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that
we do not curse, swear, use satanic
arts, lie, or deceive by His name,
but call upon it in every trouble,
pray, praise, and give thanks.

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by
keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that
we do not despise preaching and
His Word, but hold it sacred and
gladly hear and learn it.

The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your
mother.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that
we do not despise or anger our par-
ents and other authorities, but honor
them, serve and obey them, love
and cherish them.

The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so
that we do not hurt or harm our
neighbor in his body, but help and
support him in every physical need.



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 1:24–28

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in His own image,
in the image of God He created him;
male and female He created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 2:18, 21–24

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” . . .

²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,



SINGING THE PSALMS

The psalmody in this book is pointed for singing. Each psalm verse is divided into two parts, with an asterisk (*) indicating the point of division. Most of the text of each half verse is sung to a reciting tone (̎). At the point of the vertical line (|) the final two or three syllables are sung to the notes provided. Ordinarily there is one syllable of text for each note. When there are only two syllables, the first syllable is sung to two notes.

In addition to a number of single tones, three double tones are also provided. Two verses of text are sung to these tones. Double tones are especially appropriate for longer psalms and work best when sung to a psalm with an even number of verses.

Any psalm can be sung to any tone. It is best, however, that the tone, which can range from cheerful and bright to somber and austere, be appropriate to the text.

