



"You shall not murder." - Exodus 20:13

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*congregation stands

WELCOME

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THEME OF THE DAY

The Fifth Commandment is God's affirmation of life—from conception to natural death, from womb to tomb. Today we also say "yes" to life. In the words of Luther we will "help our neighbor and befriend him in every bodily need."

OPENING HYMN

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

LSB 545, vs. 1, 2



1 Word of God, come down on earth, Liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to



heav'n de - scend - ing; Touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,



Faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
Cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, Sav - ing Word, the



we re - vere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.
world re - stor - ing, Speak to us, Your love out - pour - ing.

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*INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

- P It is time to acknowledge the one, true God. Who is this God?
C **We believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**
P We also believe in the One Whom God sent.
C **Yes, we believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**
P We also believe in the One Whom Jesus sent and what He has promised.
C **Yes, we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

- P And so let us begin in the name of Our God, the Triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 C **There is no other God! Amen and amen!**

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P Let us be honest with ourselves, our God, and with each other and confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness.

(Silence for reflection)

- C **Lord God, we come into your presence sinful and unclean, we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not given ourselves in love and service. We have followed our own selfish desires, ignoring you and the needs of those around us. Forgive our sin, sensitize us to our family and friends who need our love, and give us faith and the power to live for you today.**
- P God has promised full, free and forever forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C **Glory to God! Amen**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Great God, Our Creator



1 Great God, our Cre - a - tor, from whom all re - ceive
 2 And You, Je - sus Christ, we af - firm as our Lord,
 3 Free Spir - it of wis - dom, of pow - er and love,



Their be - ing and bless - ing, in You we be - lieve.
 True Son of the Fa - ther, by an - gels a - dored;
 On us, as on Christ, You de - scend from a - bove;



Al - might - y, all - know - ing, all - gra - cious, all - true,
 Re - deem - er in - car - nate, You paid for our sins,
 You call us, You cleanse us, You o - pen our eyes,



Pro - vid - er and Fa - ther, our trust is in You.
 And, joined in Your ris - ing, our new life be - gins.
 You keep us in peace, You re - store par - a - dise.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Gracious and loving Father, we pray that may fear and love you that we may not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body but help and befriend him in every bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 4:1–9

L A reading from Genesis, the fourth chapter.

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." ²And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

⁸Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*TEN COMMANDMENTS *Spoken in unison*

C **You shall have no other gods.**

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

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

EPISTLE READING

1 John 3:11-18

¹¹For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹²We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. ¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:21-26

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²¹"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' ²²But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*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,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON HYMN Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness **LSB 788**, vs. 1, 3, 5, 6



1 For - give us, Lord, for shal - low thank - ful - ness,
 3 For - give us, Lord, for self - ish thanks and praise,
 5 For - give us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast,
 6 O - pen our eyes to see Your love's in - tent,



For dull con - tent with warmth and shel - tered care,
 For words that speak at var - i - ance with deeds;
 For joy in things that mean - while starve the soul,
 To know with minds and hearts its depth and height;



For songs of praise for food and har - vest press,
 For - give our thanks for walk - ing pleas - ant ways
 For walls and wars that hide Your mer - cies vast
 May thank - ful - ness be days in ser - vice spent,



While of Your rich - er gifts we're un - a - ware:
 Un - mind - ful of a bro - ken broth - er's needs:
 And blur our vi - sion of the King - dom goal:
 Re - flec - tion of Christ's life and love and light.

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SERMON **Murder God Wrote—God's Top Ten (Part 5)**

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not murder. Exodus 20:13

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.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Create In Me

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

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OFFERING

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*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- P O, God, we thank you for the Fifth Commandment, your commandment of life.
C **"You shall not murder."**
P Father, it sounds simple, just four little words,
C **But it is a hard command even to understand, let alone obey.**
P The original meaning is simple:
C **You shall not put anyone to death improperly for selfish reasons.**
P Cain murdered his brother, Abel, because he was jealous. His rage cost Able his life.
C **For murdering Abel, O God, you condemned Cain.**
P Jesus, you also said, that we shall not murder.
C **You judge the anger that can lead to murder as severely as the act itself.**
P You wipe out the distinction between neighbor and enemy.
C **By bidding us to love our enemies and to turn the other cheek to their assault.**

- P Jesus, your goodness and mercy so enraged the custodians of violence, both Jewish and Roman,
C **That, in spite of their hatred for each other, they made common cause in killing you.**
P But you remained constant and loving to the very end.
C **To Peter, trying to defend you, you said, "Put away your sword!"**
P You neither practice nor countenance violence in any form.

+ *Additional Prayers* +

- P "When shall we ever learn," O God? "When shall we ever learn?"
C **Remove our hearts of stone;**
P And give us hearts of flesh; warm, loving, and tender hearts towards all people.
C **Create in me a clean heart, O God.**
P And renew a right spirit within me. Taught by our Lord and trusting in his promises, we are bold to pray ...

***LORD'S PRAYER**

- C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

***COLLECT FOR THE WORD**

- P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

***MORNING PRAYER** *Spoken in unison*

- C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend**

myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

*BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C **Amen.**

HYMN TO DEPART

Church of God, Elect and Glorious

LSB 646, vs. 1, 2, 4



1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, Ho - ly
2 God has called you out of dark - ness In - to
4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, Be the



na - tion, cho - sen race; Called as God's own
His most mar - v'ulous light; Brought His truth to
peo - ple He in - tends; Strong in faith and



spe - cial peo - ple, Roy - al priests and heirs of
life with - in you, Turned your blind - ness in - to
swift to an - swer Each com - mand your Mas - ter



grace: Know the pur - pose of your call - ing,
sight. Let your light so shine a - round you
sends: Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing



Show to all His might - y deeds; Tell of love that
That God's name is glo - ri - fied And all find fresh
Through your sac - ri - fice and prayer; Give your lives in



knows no lim - its, Grace that meets all hu - man needs.
 hope and pur - pose In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.
 joy - ful ser - vice— Sing His praise, His love de - clare.

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MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK:

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. —1 John 3:16

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