

---

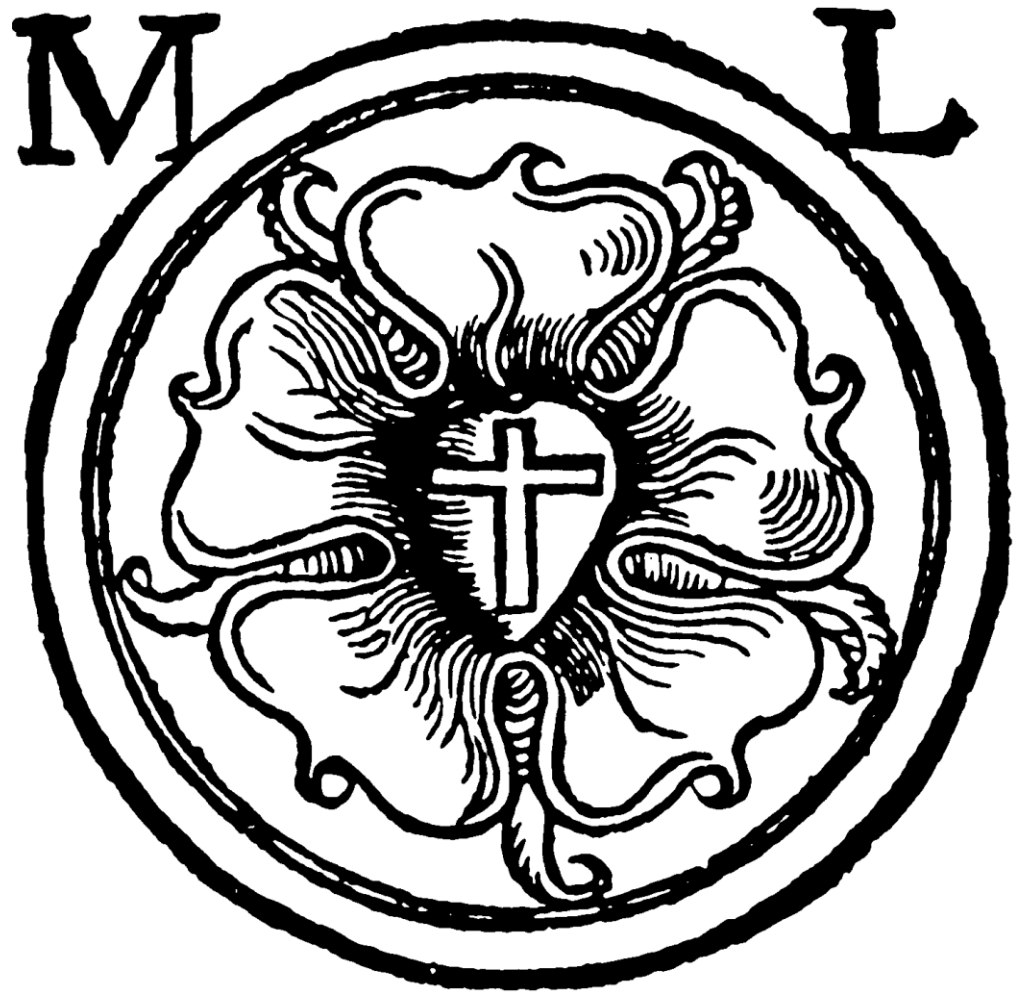
The Small Catechism of Martin Luther:

# Prayers for Daily Use

---

# The Table of Duties

with Study Questions





# PRAYERS FOR DAILY USE

*“How the head of the family should teach his household.”*

## **A Morning Prayer**

*In the morning, when you rise you shall make the sign of the holy cross, and you shall say:*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Then, kneeling or standing, you shall say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Then you may say this prayer:*

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 You to protect 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 wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

*And then you should go with joy to your work, singing a hymn, or the Ten Commandments or whatever your devotion may suggest.*

## **An Evening Prayer**

*In the evening, when you go to bed, you shall make the sign of the holy cross, and you shall say:*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Then, kneeling or standing, you shall say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. Then you may say this prayer:*

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray You to forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

*And then lie down in peace, and sleep.*

1. What words usually accompany the sign of the cross? Why is that? (Ephesians 1:11-14, 3:14-19, 4:30) How might you respond to the charge that this practice is “too Roman Catholic”?
  2. Is any posture of prayer commanded in the Bible? (Daniel 6:10, Matthew 6:5-6, Luke 18:9-14, 1 Timothy 2:8)
  3. Why can you call God “my heavenly Father”? (Malachi 2:10, Romans 8:14-17, Galatians 3:26)
  4. Why do you pray “through Jesus Christ”? (John 14:13-14, 15:16, 16:23-27, Ephesians 2:13-18, Hebrews 10:19-22)
  5. What blessings does this prayer acknowledge? What blessings are requested?
  6. Where and how do you learn to commend yourself to God? (Psalm 37:5-6, Matthew 6:31-34, Luke 23:46, 1 Peter 2:23)
- 
1. How do the troubles and concerns of the evening differ from the morning? (Romans 7:18-19, Ephesians 5:11-12, 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8, 2 Corinthians 11:14)
  2. What promises does God make for each part of the day? (Psalm 42:8, 91:1-6, 121)
  3. Compare the Morning & Evening Prayers. How has God's faithfulness through the day met with our failures, and how does this tension resolve? (Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19)
  4. What “holy angel” does Luther have in mind? (Psalm 91:11, Matthew 18:10, Hebrews 1:14)
  5. Why may we sleep in peace? (Psalm 4:8, Romans 5:1, Colossians 1:19)

# PRAYERS FOR DAILY USE

*“How the head of the family should teach his household.”*

## *Prayer*

1. Why is it important for Christians to pray? (Psalm 50:15, Matthew 7:7-8, 1 Timothy 2:1-4)
2. What is the “model prayer” for Christians? (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4) Of the seven petitions in this prayer, how many of them address spiritual needs and how many address physical needs? What does this teach us about our prayers?
3. What should we do when we find it difficult to pray? (Book of Psalms, Romans 8:26-27)

---

## **Prayer before Eating**

The eyes of all wait upon You, O Lord, and You give them their food in due season; You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

1. Are Christians required to pray at mealtime? What are some good reasons for doing this? (Matthew 14:19-20, 15:36, Luke 24:30, 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
2. The first part of the prayer comes from Psalm 145. What does it acknowledge about the blessings we have?
3. Does God dispense His blessings only to believers in Christ? (Matthew 5:45, Acts 14:17) What should this cause all creation to do? (Acts 17:22-31, Romans 1:19-23)
4. What does the second part of the prayer again emphasize? (Deuteronomy 8:11-18, Psalm 100, Romans 11:36)

---

## **Prayer after Eating**

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for all Your benefits, You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

1. The “Thank-You Prayer” is about more than thankfulness for food. What reasons to give thanks are listed in Psalm 136?
2. For what benefits especially do we thank God the Father through His Son?
3. In the first part of the prayer, we say that “His mercy endures forever.” According to the second part of the prayer, why can we be confident of this?

# THE TABLE OF DUTIES

*"Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare."*

## Pastors and Preachers

A bishop must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence...not a novice...holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. 1 Timothy 3:2-4 and 6; Titus 1:9.

## What the Hearers Owe to Their Pastors

Obey those who rule over you, and submit yourselves, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Hebrews 13:17.

Eat and drink such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Luke 10:7.

The Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel. 1 Corinthians 9:14.

Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. Galatians 6:6-7.

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages." 1 Timothy 5:17-18.

1. The same word for "bishop" or "overseer" (*episkopos*) is found in Acts 20:28 and Titus 1:7. What is the modern-day parallel to this office? From where does this office receive its authority? (Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 10:16, Acts 20:28, 1 Corinthians 4:1, 1 Peter 2:25)
  2. What things in this list would disqualify a person from serving in the pastoral office? (also 1 Corinthians 9:26-27, 14:33-38, 1 Timothy 2:11-12, 2 Timothy 2:14-18)
  3. The Roman Catholic Church insists that priests must be celibate. Does the Bible support this? (1 Corinthians 7:7-9, 1 Timothy 4:1-3)
- 
1. Is there any limit to a pastor's authority?
  2. How can the members of a congregation increase the joy of their pastor(s)?
  3. Who spoke these words and to whom does "they" refer? How do these words apply today?
  4. Is it a sin for a congregation to fail to fully pay/support a pastor? Is it a sin for a pastor to become wealthy through preaching and teaching the Gospel?
  5. What is the correlation between verse 6 and verse 7?
  6. What does God expect Christians to sow, and what can they expect to reap according to this passage? (1 Corinthians 9:11)
  7. How is an "elder" (*presbyteros*) different from a "bishop"? (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5, 1 Peter 5:1-4)
  8. What does an ox have to do with a pastor? (Deuteronomy 25:4)
  9. Jesus said, "The laborer is worthy of his wages" (Matthew 10:10, Luke 10:7). What does this tell us about when these Gospels were written and how Paul regarded them?

# THE TABLE OF DUTIES

*“Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare.”*

## Civil Government

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who does evil. Romans 13:1-4.

## Citizens

Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s. Matthew 22:21.

Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. Romans 13:5-7.

I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior. 1 Timothy 2:1-3.

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work. Titus 3:1.

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. 1 Peter 2:13-14.

1. What vocations are included in the term “governing authorities”?
2. What should government officials remember about their authority? (John 19:10-11) Does God expect government to make decisions/policies that are consistent with His Word? Should government outlaw all religions except Christianity?
3. Is it true that citizens are rewarded for “doing what is good”? (Genesis 41:39-40, Acts 5:40, 16:19-23,35-39, 1 Peter 2:18-23)
4. What does “bearing the sword” include? (Genesis 9:6, Matthew 5:38-39, 26:52)

- 
1. Caesar expected his subjects to revere him as a god. Do Jesus’ words mean it is sometimes okay to break the First Commandment? Explain.
  2. Is obedience to government written on every conscience?
  3. Is there a limit how much a government should tax and how much a citizen should pay? Is it ever appropriate to refuse to pay taxes? (Matthew 17:24-27)
  4. Why is it important to pray for our government officials? (Jeremiah 29:7) Are there times that we should not pray for members of the government? (Matthew 5:43-45, Colossians 3:12-15)
  5. Give examples how God’s plan to send a Savior included government.
  6. Whom do we honor when we honor government officials?
  7. What are we to do if the government orders us to speak or live contrary to God’s Word? (Matthew 10:28,32-34, Acts 5:29, Romans 10:10-11, 1 Peter 2:18-23)

# THE TABLE OF DUTIES

*“Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare.”*

## *Marriage*

1. What is marriage and who instituted it? (Genesis 2:18,20-25, Matthew 19:3-6)
  2. According to Scripture, what things can cause the marital union to end? (Matthew 5:31-32, 22:30, Mark 10:2-12, 1 Corinthians 7:10-16, 7:39)
- 

## **Husbands**

Likewise you husbands, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. 1 Peter 3:7.

Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. Colossians 3:19.

1. How does a husband “give honor” to his wife? (Genesis 2:23, 1 Corinthians 14:33-35, Ephesians 5:25-33, Titus 2:1-2,6)
  2. The wife is described here as “the weaker vessel”? To what could this refer? What does it mean for the husband?
  3. What distinctions about God’s grace should be made between men and women? (Romans 3:22-24, Galatians 3:27-29)
  4. How does the context of Colossians 3 inform the command to husbands in verse 19?
- 

## **Wives**

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord... as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are as long as you do good and are not afraid with any terror. Ephesians 5:22; 1 Peter 3:6.

1. What does God mean when He calls on wives to “submit to your own husbands”? (Genesis 2:18, 3:16, 1 Corinthians 11:3,7-12, 1 Peter 3:1-6) Is there any limit to this submission? (Ephesians 5:22-24)
2. Why is Sarah cited as a special example for Christian wives? (Genesis 18:12, Romans 9:6-9, Galatians 3:6-9,29, Hebrews 11:11-12)
3. What are some ways that women “do good” in their vocation as wives? (Proverbs 31:10-31, 1 Timothy 2:8-15, 5:3-16, Titus 2:3-5)

# THE TABLE OF DUTIES

*“Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare.”*

## *Family*

1. What were the characteristics of the first family before the fall into sin? (Genesis 1:26-28,31)
  2. How did family relationships change after the fall into sin? (Genesis 3:16-19, 4:8, 5:3-5)
  3. How are families a blessing in this life? (Psalm 127, 128, Proverbs 17:6, Ephesians 6:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:5, 3:14-15)
  4. How can families become a distraction and burden? (Matthew 10:34-39, John 7:2-5, 1 Corinthians 7:32-36)
- 

## **Parents**

Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4.

1. How might a father provoke his children to wrath? (Genesis 37:3-4, Proverbs 15:1, Colossians 3:21, 1 Timothy 5:8)
  2. Why is the discipline of children so important? (Proverbs 13:24, 22:15, 29:15,17, Hebrews 12:5-11)
  3. What is included in “the training and admonition of the Lord”? (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Psalm 78:1-8, Proverbs 22:6, Matthew 28:18-20, Romans 1:16-17, 10:17, Colossians 3:12-17)
- 

## **Children**

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” Ephesians 6:1-3.

1. To what extent should children obey their parents? (Colossians 3:20, Acts 5:29)
2. How serious is it when children disobey their parents? (Deuteronomy 27:16, Proverbs 10:1, 19:26-27, 30:17) Give some examples from Scripture of children who suffered when they dishonored their parents.
3. What blessings come to those who honor father and mother out of love for God? (Exodus 20:5-6, Proverbs 10:1, 17:6, 1 Timothy 4:8, 2 Timothy 3:13-17, Hebrews 13:7)



# THE TABLE OF DUTIES

*“Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare.”*

## Work

1. Is work a blessing from God or a curse of sin? (Genesis 2:15, 3:16-19)
2. What are some benefits of work? (Proverbs 12:14, 19:17, Ephesians 4:28)
3. What should each worker keep in mind? (Deuteronomy 8:17-18, Proverbs 12:11, 14:23, 30:8-9, Luke 12:16-31, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13)

---

## Employees

Servants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. Ephesians 6:5-8.

1. To what extent should employees obey their employers? (Titus 2:9-10, Colossians 3:22, Acts 5:29)
2. What does it mean that employees should serve “with fear and trembling”? (1 Timothy 6:1, 1 Peter 2:18-24) Ultimately, whom do they serve? (Colossians 3:23-24)
3. Which of the Commandments especially touch on an employee’s duties to his employer?
4. Should a common faith in Jesus change the relationship between employer and employee? (Galatians 3:27-29, Colossians 3:9-11, 1 Timothy 6:2, Philemon vv. 15-16)

---

## Employers

Masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him. Ephesians 6:9.

1. Which of the Commandments especially touch on an employer’s responsibilities?
2. How far does God expect employers to go in showing love and kindness to their employees? (Matthew 7:12, John 13:1-15, Colossians 4:1)
3. Does the same hierarchy among men exist before God? (Luke 22:24-27, Romans 3:22-24, Galatians 2:6-9, 3:27-29)

# THE TABLE OF DUTIES

*“Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare.”*

## The Young

You younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. 1 Peter 5:5-6.

1. To what age group does “younger people” refer? (1 Timothy 5:1-2, Titus 2:1-6) Who is included in the term “elders”? (Acts 14:23, Hebrews 13:7,17, 1 Peter 5:1-4)
2. The biblical teaching of submission is often criticized, especially when wives are urged to submit to their husbands and women are told to be submissive in the church (1 Corinthians 14:33-35). How are submission and humility connected? (Luke 2:51, 22:25-27, Ephesians 5:18-24)
3. What are some passages that characterize the weaknesses of younger people? (Genesis 8:21, Psalm 25:7, Proverbs 19:26-27, 1 Corinthians 13:11) How are younger people also cited as examples for all Christians? (Matthew 18:1-4, Mark 10:13-15)

## Widows

Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives. 1 Timothy 5:5-6.

1. Give some examples from Scripture of widows whom God commended for their Christian love and faithfulness.
2. What directions and warnings has God given to widows and their relatives? (1 Corinthians 7:39, 1 Timothy 5:3-16)
3. What comfort can be offered to widows? (Deuteronomy 10:17-18, Psalm 146:8, Luke 18:1-8)

## All Christians

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.... I exhort... that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men. Romans 13:9; 1 Timothy 2:1.

1. What does “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” summarize? (Matthew 22:34-40, Romans 13:9-10)
2. For whom should we pray? (Matthew 5:43-44)
3. Why should we pray? (Psalm 50:15, 107:1, Matthew 7:7-8, Philippians 4:6, 1 Peter 5:7)