

Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 2025

The Second Sunday in Lent



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## **WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!” (Psalm 84:1) We are thankful that God has brought you here with us this morning to hear His Word and receive His gifts! You’ll find everything you need for the worship service in this bulletin and in *Lutheran Service Book*, our hymnal. If you have any questions about our worship service, our congregation, or what we believe, please ask our pastor or any of our members.

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### **OUR COMMUNION POLICY:**

Our presence at the Lord’s Supper is to be a sign of our unity in Christ. Lutherans believe Scripture clearly teaches this sacrament is for those who trust that Jesus Christ is their Savior, are repentant for their sins, desire to lead a God pleasing life, and confess that, in, with, and under the bread and wine, Jesus Christ is truly physically present for the forgiveness of sins. And since 1 Corinthians warns that we can take the Sacrament to our condemnation if ill-prepared, we kindly ask any guests desiring to commune with us to speak with our pastor or one of our Elders before the service.

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### **SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:**

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh  
Musician – Gina Sanders  
Lay Reader – Carole Holschuh  
Assisting Elder – Dave Layland  
Usher – Jeremy Clifton  
Acolyte – Calvin Monroe

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### **AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:**

#### ***Jesus Rescues Us from Death and Brings Us into Heaven***

The prophet Jeremiah faithfully preached “*all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people*” (Jer. 26:8). He called the people to repentance, lest the Lord’s judgment come upon them. The violence that Jeremiah suffered for this preaching foreshadowed the cross and Passion of Christ Jesus, who suffered the judgment of God for the redemption of all people. For Jesus “*comes in the name of the Lord*” (Luke 13:35) in order to lay down His life for the sins of the world. Earthly Jerusalem was blind to His gracious visitation, and it put Him to death like the prophets before Him. Yet, His sacrifice upon the cross became the cornerstone of the new Jerusalem, His Church. He visits us today in mercy with His preaching of forgiveness, to gather us to Himself within that holy city, “*as a hen gathers her brood under her wings*” (Luke 13:34), for “*our citizenship is in heaven*” (Phil. 3:20).

**DIVINE SERVICE**  
**SETTING FOUR**

<b>Prelude</b>		Selected Music
<b>Welcome and Greeting</b>		Pastor
<b>Announcements</b>		
<b>Opening Hymn</b>	<i>“Preach You the Word”</i>	LSB 586
<i>(stand)</i>		

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** *Ps. 130:3-4*
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *[Luke 18:13]*
- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.** *[John 20:19-23]*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### Introit

Psalm 74:1-3

- P** O God, why do you cast us off forever?  
Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?
- C** **Remember your congregation, which you have purchased of old,  
which you have redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage!**
- P** Remember Mount Zion, where you have dwelt.
- C** **Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins;  
the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary!**

*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.*

### Kyrie

Mark 10:47



- C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.  
O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

*(sit)*

<sup>8</sup>When Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! <sup>9</sup>Why have you prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying, “This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant’?” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.

<sup>10</sup>When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king’s house to the house of the Lord and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.”

<sup>12</sup>Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. <sup>13</sup>Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. <sup>14</sup>But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. <sup>15</sup>Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Reading**

Philippians 3:17-4:1

<sup>17</sup>Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*(stand)*

**Holy Gospel Reading**

Luke 13:31-35

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup>And he said to them, “**Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. <sup>33</sup>Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup>O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! <sup>35</sup>Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’”**

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(sit)*

**Hymn of the Day**

*“Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”*

LSB 708

**Sermon**

*The Country of the Blind*

Philippians 3:17-4:1

*(stand)*

**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.

## Passing of the Peace

*(sit)*

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Lord, in Your mercy  
**C** hear our prayer.

## Offering

Usher

*(stand)*

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### Preface

**P** The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*  
**C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord. *[Colossians 3:1]*

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise. *[Psalm 136]*

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.

## The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24  
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

*John 20:19*

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

# Agnus Dei

John 1:29



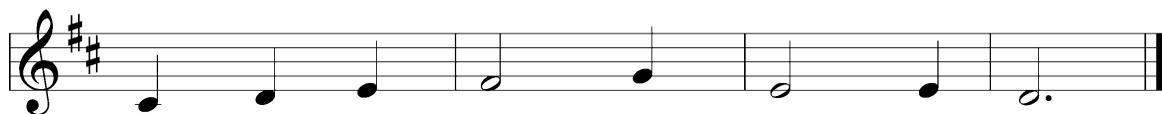
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*(sit)*

**Distribution Hymn**

*“Children of the Heavenly Father”*

LSB 725

*(stand)*

# Nunc Dimittis

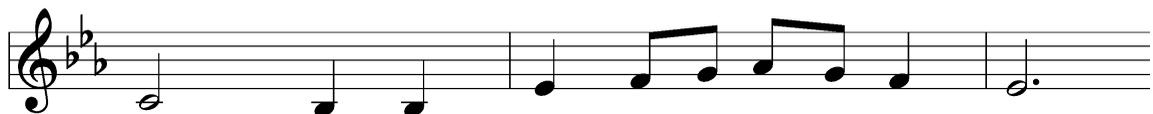
Luke 2:29-32



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Benedicamus and Benediction

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

*[Psalm 103:1]*

**C Thanks be to God.**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**C Amen.**

*(sit)*

**Closing Hymn**

*“How Firm a Foundation”*

LSB 728

**P** Go in Peace!

**C Serve the Lord!**

**Postlude**

Selected Music

*Initial and ongoing funding for Epiphany Lutheran Church has been received through a grant made possible by the Roy D. and Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund.*

## SERMON NOTES: **Philippians 3:17-4:1**

### *The Country of the Blind*

1. Jesus said that people love \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_ because their deeds are \_\_\_\_\_.  
(ref. John 3:19)
  2. We are citizens—by birth—of the \_\_\_\_\_; however, we're citizens also—by \_\_\_\_\_—of \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. But \_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_, where our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, is; and we are looking forward to his return from there. (Philippians 3:20 TLB)
  4. Paul wants the Philippian \_\_\_\_\_ to understand that being “in \_\_\_\_\_” is far superior to being “in \_\_\_\_\_.”
  5. It's through God's Word and \_\_\_\_\_ that we \_\_\_\_\_ to live as \_\_\_\_\_.
  6. Good \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_ for Christ will ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ God.
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### **PRAYERS AT EPIPHANY**

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please share any prayer request on the Prayer Requests sheet as you enter on Sunday. You may also email a prayer request, as well as a request to become a part of Epiphany's prayer chain, to [secretary@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto:secretary@epiphanybastrop.org).

Please continue to pray for...

- Rev. Carlos and Deaconess Danelle Schuman – missionaries in the Dominican Republic

## INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

The first step to becoming a member of our congregation is to speak with our pastor.

We believe, teach, and confess that we are all broken sinners in need of God's salvation, which He freely gives through His Word and Sacrament. Church is not a club for the sinless— it's a hospital for sinners!

You may become a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church by transferring your membership from a sister congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) or you may receive instruction from the pastor and become a communicant member of Epiphany and the LCMS through Adult Instruction Class or through a profession of faith.

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Epiphany Lutheran Church has a podcast! Our *Peace Be With You* podcast is available on popular podcast apps, but you can always find it at [peacebewithyou.podbean.com](http://peacebewithyou.podbean.com) (or just scan the QR code).



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**Epiphany Events Calendar:** Our congregation calendar is on our website ([epiphanybastrop.org](http://epiphanybastrop.org)); to add an event, please email [secretary@epiphanybastrop.org](mailto:secretary@epiphanybastrop.org).

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**Offering:** Should you wish to make your regular tithe or offering online, you may do so at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home> or scan this QR code.



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**Lent Midweek Fellowship Gatherings:** Join us as we gather together at 6:30pm on 3/19 (Linda and Ruby), 3/26 (Rossers), and 4/2 & 4/9 (Monroes) for a light meal and video study! For more info, contact Pastor E.B.

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**Thursday 6pm Zoom Study:** Join us for *Hebrews – Timeless Truths*, a 13-week look at the entire (13 chapters) of the New Testament book of Hebrews (began on February 13<sup>th</sup>). We'll look at the practical application of each chapter of Hebrews as we seek to understand more deeply the heart, will, intent and design of our Heavenly Father, the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus, and the powerful work of the Holy Spirit in our world today. Register: [bit.ly/ELC-Hebrews](http://bit.ly/ELC-Hebrews)

***Make Every Day Count*** devotional gathering at Argent Court Assisted Living in Bastrop meets twice a month at 3pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

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***The First Annual Epiphany Lutheran Church Spend the Year in Scripture Challenge*** reading schedule through next Sunday:

- Day 76 - Mon 3/17: Joshua 22-24, Psalm 76
- Day 77 - Tue 3/18: Judges 1-2, Psalm 77
- Day 78 - Wed 3/19: Judges 3-5, Psalm 78
- Day 79 - Thu 3/20: Judges 6-7, Psalm 79
- Day 80 - Fri 3/21: Judges 8-9, Psalm 80
- Day 81 - Sat 3/22: Judges 10-12, Psalm 81
- Day 82 - Sun 3/23: Judges 13-15, Psalm 82



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**Lutheran Radio:** Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday on station KBUK-FM 104.9 at 7:00 a.m. or on station KANJ-FM 91.5 at 12:30 p.m. or go to [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live. You can also listen to The Lutheran Hour on the local Austin station KLBJ (590 AM or 99.7 FM) at 7am on Sunday. **KFUO Radio**, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on [KFUO.org](http://KFUO.org) via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at [kfu.org](http://kfu.org) and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: [@KFUOradio](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio) on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio), [Twitter](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio), and [Instagram](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio).

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**RightNow Media:** Every person in our Epiphany family has (and can share) free access to over 25,000 biblical video series for adults, youth, and kids—**RightNow Media** has a free app that’s available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. Visit [app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb](http://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb) or scan the QR code.



## THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

### Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

- 10:00am – Children’s Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

### Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

- 3:00pm – Devotional at Argent Court

### Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>

- 6:00pm – Lent Midweek Fellowship Gathering – At Linda and Ruby’s

### Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

- 6:00pm – Zoom Study: *Hebrews-Timeless Truths*

### Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

- 10:00am – Children’s Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

Answers to Sermon Notes:  
1. Jesus said that people love *darkness* rather than *light* because their deeds are *evil* (ref. John 3:19)  
2. We are citizens—by birth—of the *world*, however, we re citizens also—by *rebirth*—of *heaven*  
3. But *our homeland* is in *heaven* where our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, is; and we are looking forward to his return from there. (Philippians 3:20 TLV)  
4. Paul wants the Philippian *Christians* to understand that being “in *Christ*” is far superior to being “in *Rome*”  
5. It’s through God’s Word and *fellowship* that we *learn* to live as *Christians*  
6. Good *behavior* as a *witness* for Christ will ultimately *glorify* God.



## A Little Book of Less Than 8,000 Words – Part 4

[Pastor's note: This is the 4<sup>th</sup> in a series of "lessons" on **Luther's Small Catechism** using excerpts from Robert Kolb's 2012 study guide, *Teaching God's Children His Teaching*.]

The Small Catechism aids us in transforming the lives of others through the application of law and gospel to those lives. Most specifically the Catechism assists parents and pastors and teachers in carrying out the assignments from God to teach others, particularly children, whom God has entrusted to them (Deuteronomy 6:7; Ephesians 6:4).

Luther was speaking of both rulers and parents when he urged that children be educated: all those to whom God has given responsibility for the care and education of the young are guilty of damning sin if they fail to carry out that education. Neglecting this responsibility undermines both the kingdom of God and human society. Those who fail to provide necessary education are, according to Luther, "the worst enemies of God and human beings." He declared that every head of a household had the duty to examine his children and servants at least once a week to determine whether they had learned the Catechism assignment for the week. If they did not know it, parents were to keep them at it with all diligence, Luther insisted.

Luther insisted that the habit of daily recitation of the parts of the Catechism should be instilled in children. Recitation was supposed to take place in the morning, at mealtime, and before bed in the evening. Luther took the matter so seriously that he urged parents to withhold food and drink until the recitation was given correctly. He also urged dismissal of servants if they were unwilling to learn the Catechism.

Even a brief glance at the Small Catechism demonstrates that this was not just a pious wish on Luther's part. He intended that parents to use it. Its brief summary of Christian teaching could be taught even by parents who could not read: they could repeat it from memory if they had learned it as children and had continued to recite it in worship services.

For example, each of the six chief parts of Christian teaching in the first section of the Catechism, begins in this manner: "The Ten Commandments, in the plain form in which the head of the family shall teach them to his household." The second section has similar instructions; for example, "How the head of the family shall teach his household to say morning and evening prayers." and "Shall" commands; it sets forth an obligation, a responsibility, an assignment. Luther took seriously God's command to parents to train their children in the word of the Lord. He believed that God had designed human life to begin in the family and to be based on the family's exercise of its function and responsibilities, among them catechesis (that is, instructing one another in God's word).



