

**EXPLANATION OF
LUTHER'S
SMALL CATECHISM**

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Explanation of Luther's Small Catechism by H. U. Sverdrup

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★ R. R. BOWKER

EXPLANATION
OF
LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM.

Based on Dr. Eriçk Pontoppidan.

BY

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Abridged Edition.

Translated from the Norwegian

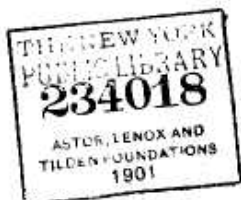
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PREFACE.

Many explanations of Luther's Small Catechism have been prepared by approved teachers in the Church. Prominent among these is the one prepared by Dr. Erick Pontoppidan, Bishop of Bergen, Norway, 1748—1755, afterwards Chancellor of the University of Copenhagen till his death in 1764. His larger Explanation of Luther's Small Catechism appeared in 1737. This, in epitomized form, has long been used in the Church of Norway and in the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, and has there proved to be an efficient and blessed means of advancing the religious training of the young. A well known and widely used Epitome of Pontoppidan's Explanation was made by Rev. H. U. Sverdrup, pastor, during 1849—1883, of Balestrand parish in Sogn, Norway. This received royal authorization in 1865. In 1893 an abridgment of Sverdrup's Epitome was sanctioned by the Department of Church and Education. It is from this abridgment that the following translation has been made.

This translation has been made at the request of the Publishing Committee of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, and is issued by its Publication House at Minneapolis, Minn.

The translation of the text of Luther's Small Catechism is the Standard English Version made by a joint committee of leading Lutheran church bodies in the

United States, and completed in 1898. This is printed separately at the beginning of the book so as to facilitate its use in the important work of memorizing. It is printed again, in Italics, throughout the questions and answers, where it has been slightly modified in two or three instances in order to conform more closely with Sverdrup's arrangement. These modifications, however, present no essential changes.

The words: "Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations," have been substituted for those of the English Catechism Version: "Go ye and teach all nations," so as to accord with the Norwegian rendering of Matth. 28: 19.

For obvious reasons a literal translation has not been made of certain questions and answers whose original phraseology depended on the Norwegian Catechism text. In these cases the translation has been conformed to the text of the Standard English Version. Otherwise the original has been followed as closely as possible.

May the blessing of God attend this little book on its mission among the children and young people of our Church, and prosper it as a means of establishing them in the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

E. G. L.

Minneapolis, April 10, 1900.

LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM.

PART I.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

In the plain form in which the head of the family should teach them to his household.

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT.

Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

Q.—What is meant by this?

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

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT.

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.

Q.—What is meant by this?

A.—We should fear and love God, and not curse, swear, conjure, lie, or deceive by His Name, but call upon His Name in every time of need, and worship Him with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT.

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Q.—What is meant by this?

*A.—*We should fear and love God, and not despise preaching and His Word, but deem it holy and gladly hear and learn it.

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT.

Honor thy father and thy mother, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Q.—What is meant by this?

*A.—*We should fear and love God, and not despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey, love, and esteem them.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT.

Thou shalt not kill.

Q.—What is meant by this?

*A.—*We should fear and love God, and not hurt nor harm our neighbour in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Q.—What is meant by this?