

The Second and Third Commandments

How do you understand the Second Commandment, or what is meant by taking in vain, or misusing God's name? Answer briefly thus: It is misusing God's name when we call upon the Lord God, no matter in what way, for purposes of falsehood or wrong of any kind. Therefore this commandment enjoins this much, that God's name must not be appealed to falsely, or taken upon the lips, while the heart knows well enough, or should know, differently; as among those who take oaths in court, where one side lies against the other. For God's name cannot be misused worse than for the support of falsehood and deceit. Let this remain the exact German and simplest meaning of this commandment (Luther's Large Catechism).

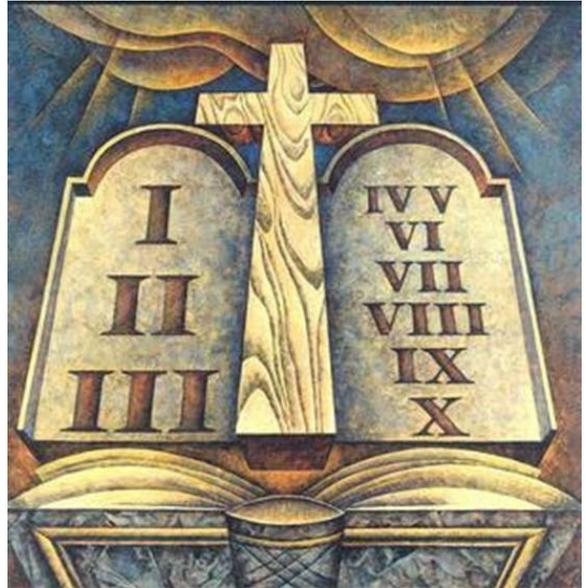
As to what God requires in this commandment [the Third Commandment], note that we keep holy days not for the sake of intelligent and learned Christians (for they have no need of it [holy days]), but first of all for bodily causes and necessities, which nature teaches and requires; for the common people, man-servants and maid-servants, who have been attending to their work and trade the whole week, that for a day they may retire in order to rest and be refreshed.

Secondly, and most especially, that on such day of rest (since we can get no other opportunity) freedom and time be taken to attend divine service; so that we come together to hear and treat of God's Word, and then to praise God, to sing and pray (Luther's Large Catechism).

The Office of Vespers

7:00 p.m.

March 4, 2026



Vespers after *Reminiscere*

“The Second and Third Commandments”

Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church

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*A Confessional, Evangelical, Sacramental, and Liturgical
Congregation of the Lutheran Confessions --
Where the Lutheran Reformation Lives!*

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[We rise]

Opening Hymn

“Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now” #902

Opening Sentences

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PSALMODY

Psalm 138

[Be seated]

READINGS

First Reading

1 Kings 18:20-40

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God!

[We rise]

Holy Gospel

St. John 5:1-18

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God!

Responsory for Lent

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[Be seated]

Office Hymn

“These are the Holy Ten Commands” #581

[stanzas 1, 3-4, 11-12]

Sermon

[We rise]

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image” #422

[replacing the Canticle]

[Be seated]

The offering is received

[We rise]

PRAYER

Kyrie, Lord's Prayer

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O Lord, hear my prayer.

And let my cry come to you.

Collect of the Day: Almighty God, heavenly Father, who never fails to help and govern those whom You do bring up in Your steadfast fear and love, make us to have a perpetual fear and love of Your holy Name by continually worshipping You every day; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect for Lent: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect for Peace

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Benedicamus, Benediction

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Closing Hymn

“O Blessed Light, O Trinity”

#890

The Second Commandment.

“Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain.”

What does this mean?—Answer. We should fear and love God that we may not curse, swear, use witchcraft, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

The Third Commandment.

“Thou shalt sanctify the holy-day.”

What does this mean?—Answer. We should fear and love God that we may not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred, and gladly hear and learn it.