

The Sixth and Seventh Commandments

The sexual revolution has determined that sexual freedom is an ultimate good as well as a basic human right, and tests that conclusion constantly in practice and in the courts. The Christian Church, holding fast to the sanctity of marriage, the dignity and exclusiveness of the marriage bed, and the importance of having and raising children finds herself as a target for sexual revolutionaries.

Here we note the Bible's strict prohibition of divorce (except in very few exceptional cases: 1 Corinthians 7:10–16; Mark 10:2–12; Matthew 19:3–9; and Luke 16:18. We also note the connection between the 6th and 5th Commandments, for example, the case of King David, and the frequency of abortion outside of marriage.

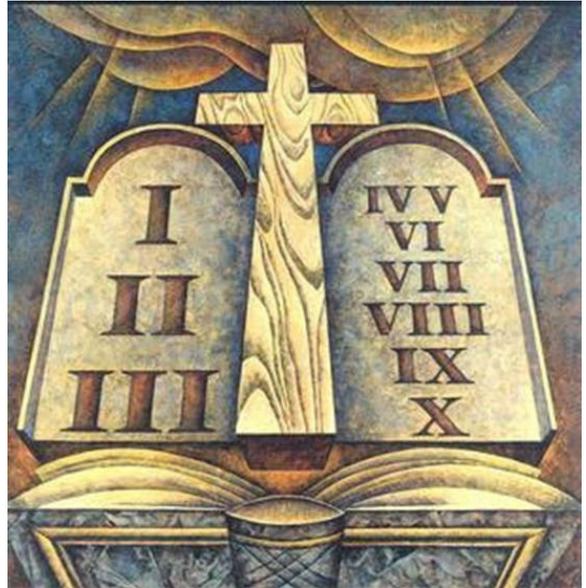
God gives us things to help us in our marriage, life, and family. The 7th Commandment governs our economic life. The Lord gives us the privilege of owning things for the sake of marriage, life, and the family. (The 7th commandment serves the 6th, 5th, 4th, and even the First Table.) The First Commandment clears relates that money ("Mammon") is one of the most common idols. We are tempted to trust in our stuff, to think that we are safe if we have "enough." The 7th Commandment helps us to put money in its proper place, and it teaches us to avoid greed and laziness, and to be generous and industrious.

God be praised! Thanks be to God!

The Office of Vespers

7:00 p.m.

March 18, 2026



Vespers after *Laetare*

“The Sixth and Seventh Commandments”

Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church

6755 Earl Drive, Suite #100
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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

“What Is the World to Me” #730

Opening Sentences

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PSALMODY

Psalm 45

[Read responsively by half verse]

[Be seated]

READINGS

First Reading

2 Samuel 11:1-27

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God!

[We rise]

Holy Gospel

St. Luke 19:1-10

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, 7-8, 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: Lord God, heavenly Father, from whom without ceasing we receive exceedingly all good gifts, including the gifts of husband or wife and all material good, therefore, we give You most hearty thanks that You are among us with Your holy Word, and we ask You to continually preserve and bless us by Your Means of Grace; 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

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

#423

The Sixth Commandment

“Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

What does this mean?—Answer. We should fear and love God that we may lead a chaste and decent life in words and deeds, and each love and honor his spouse.

The Seventh Commandment.

“Thou shalt not steal.”

What does this mean?—Answer. We should fear and love God that we may not take our neighbor's money or property, nor get them by false ware or dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and business [that his means are preserved and his condition is improved].