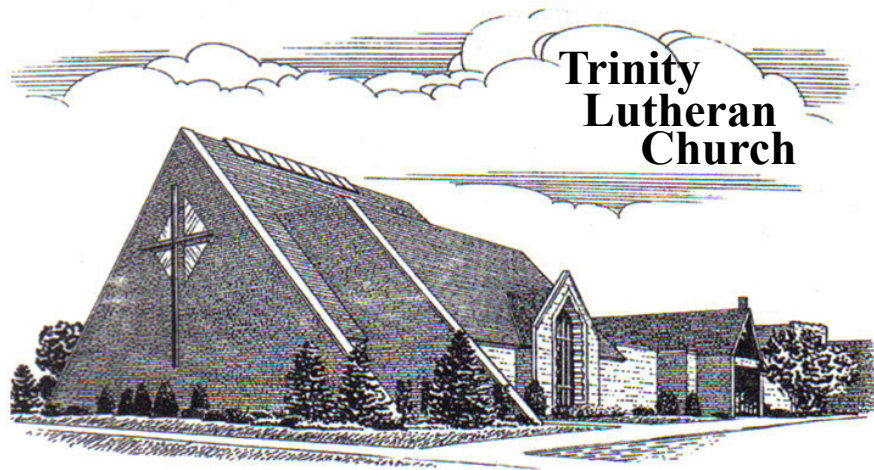


The Fifth Commandment



Oct. 12-18, 2026

Weekly Outline

Invocation

L: In the way of your testimonies I delight.

C: I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

L: Let us pray:

O Lord, take away from me all coldness, all wanderings of the thoughts, and fix my soul upon thee and thy love, O merciful Lord and Saviour, in this hour of prayer.

C: Amen.

Scripture

Oct. 12: Psalm 145:13b-21

Oct. 14: 1 John 3:16-18

Oct. 16: Luke 6:27-36

Devotion

Closing Prayer

L: Ever blessed Trinity, to thy mercy I commit this day, my body and soul, together with all my ways and undertakings. I beseech thee to be gracious unto me; enlarge my heart and open my lips, that I may praise and magnify thy name which alone is holy. And as thou hast made me for the praise of thy holy name, grant that I may yield my life a sacrifice to thy honor in humble love and fear.

C: Amen.

Monday

The fifth commandment says, "You shall not murder." This means that we should "fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need." When God says, "Do not murder," he not only wants to prevent us from harming one another, but he also wants us to do good for one another just as he has done good things for us.

Psalms 145 gives us a picture of God's character. The last two lines of verse 13 summarize God's deeds, "The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works." Nothing demonstrates God's kindness more than his continued care for creation. The psalmist writes, "The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing." God loves all that he has made. And because he loves it, he cares for it. He is kind in all his works.

We keep the fifth commandment when we participate in the kindness of God. When a mother nurses her child, she is keeping the fifth commandment, participating in the kindness of God towards her baby. When a father teaches his child to do good even to those who make him angry, he is training him to keep the fifth commandment. When a church gathers basic necessities and then gives them away to those in need, the congregation keeps the fifth commandment by participating in the kindness of God. It is good to harm no one, but it is better to partner with God in his kindness, helping and supporting others in their physical need. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Wednesday

The fifth commandment directs us to participate in the kindness of God by doing good to others. But we can only participate in God's love toward others if we first receive his love ourselves. Think about it this way. Who is more likely to show love to others, a child who was raised in a loving home, or a child that was not? The child that was loved by his parents is much more likely to show love to others. Love is something we learn. We must receive it from someone else before we can pass it on.

In 1 John 3, the apostle John reminds us how we received the love of God. He says, "By this we know love, that Christ laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers." You and I know love because God sent his Son from heaven to give his love to us. He offered us his love when he offered his body on the cross as a sacrifice for our sin. By taking our place in death, he loved us with the love of God. Having received that love, we ought to love one another.

However, even though we have received God's love in Christ, living in God's love is difficult because it requires sacrifice. Christ's love cost him his life. He took our death, and we took his life. Learning to live in Christ's love means living a sacrificial life. It means giving up what pleases us in order to do good to someone else. It means becoming a servant of all just as Christ has become a servant to us. That is no easy task. But don't think about what that love may cost you tomorrow or next year. Instead, think only about today. Put yourself at the beginning of love each morning and see how it goes from there. And the beginning of love is this: Christ laid down his life for you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Friday

Have you ever heard the phrase, "That's a hard person to love?" All of us probably know someone like that, someone who is hard to love because they have a hard edge. In our Gospel reading this week, Jesus reminds us that not only are we to show love to those who love us in return, but we are to keep the fifth commandment by following the example of God, who is kind "even to the ungrateful and the evil."

Jesus says, "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same." Jesus is pointing out that his disciples should love to a higher degree than the people around them. The world is capable of showing love, but only to those with whom they are friendly. If Christians love in the same way, what good is that? Jesus continues, "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil."

Christian love should be different from the love of the world, for Christians do good even to their enemies, the ungrateful, and the wicked. We are to love others in the same way that God has loved us. For while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Not only should we love others in obedience to the fifth commandment, but Jesus encourages us to love others by promising us a heavenly reward. You can't expect the ungrateful to thank you for your kindness. You shouldn't expect the wicked to love you in return. Loving one's enemies is the most difficult love of all. But Jesus promises us that our Father in heaven sees the good we do for others even when it is thankless. He says, "Your reward will be great." So mindful of God's commandment, but also trusting in his promise, let us love others just as God in Christ has loved us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Evening Prayer

You may pray one or more of the following after dinner or before bed:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray you that you would 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.



Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to keep; if I should die before I wake, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to take; and this I ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.



Visit, O Lord, our home, and drive from it all the snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell in it to preserve us in peace, and may your blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

A Parent's Blessing

You may place your hand on the head of your child before kissing them goodnight and say:

My loved one, rest securely,
for God this night will surely
from peril guard your head.
Sweet slumbers may he send you
and bid his hosts attend you
and through the night watch o'er your bed. Amen.

Memory Verse

MEMORY VERSE

*Train up a child in
the way he should go;
even when he is old he
will not depart from it.*

PROVERBS 22:6



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