

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes. (v8)

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully & act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, & teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Exodus 20:1-17 *Commandment numbers added for clarity*

¹God spoke all these words: ²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; [1] ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third & the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me & keep my commandments. [2] ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. [3] ⁸Remember the sabbath day, & keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor & do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven & earth, the sea, & all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day & consecrated it. [4] ¹²Honor your father & your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. [5] ¹³You shall not murder. [6] ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. [7] ¹⁵You shall not steal. [8] ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. [9] ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; [10] you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Read the rest of the covenant ceremony narrative, *Exodus 19-24* (esp. 19:1-9, 24:3-11). What does this add to your understanding of the 10 Commandments & their place in the long, rich Judeo-Christian tradition? How have Christians brought the 10 Commandments to the Gentiles?
2. How, or not, is it possible to be a Christian & not obey the 10 Commandments? How are the concepts of the Commandments written into nature? See *Romans 2:14-15*; *Large Catechism: II 67*; *Apology (Defense) of the Augsburg Confession: IV(II) 7, 14, XVIII 70, XXIII 12*; *Formula of Concord Epitome: VI 2*; *FC Solid Declaration: II 9, V 22, VI 5*; all available bookofconcord.org

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Review the 10 Commandments & their explanations in the *Small Catechism*. Where are you successful-by God's grace- at keeping them? Where are you failing? Confess these sins & hear God's forgiveness from your pastor. Review them in the *Large Catechism*, too.
4. Notice that God begins the 10 Commandments with his mercy (v2; cf. 2 *Peter 2:9-10*). How does this upfront comfort encourage seeking reconciliation for your sins condemned by the 10 Commandments?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. The world thinks the 10 Commandments are foolish- all of them. Think through each commandment; what happens to society if we abandon them one by one? See *Romans 1:18-32*
6. Our society today defines freedom as "no constraints," yet the Judeo-Christian tradition defines it as "ability to do good/right." How do the 10 Commandments seek to bind/constrain us or encourage us toward goodness? Cite evidence from *Exodus 20* & the *Small Catechism* (cf. #3 above).

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Third Sunday in Lent

03.03.24

Series: Guaranteed!

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

God doesn't go back on his word

Law & Order

God's Law orders everyday life for our benefit

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: I the Lord your God am a jealous God... showing steadfast
love to the thousandth generation of those who love me
& keep my commandments. (vv5b, 6)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

We proclaim Christ crucified, the power of God & the wisdom of God.
(1 Corinthians 1:23, 24)

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