

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE CLOSE OF THE COMMANDMENTS

READERS THEATER

Characters: Two Readers

FYI: Reader 1 will read the liturgy parts. Reader 2 will give explanations to the liturgy in the words of Job and the Divine Service. This Faith Connection could also be used as a devotional.

Reader 1: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8).

Reader 2: Why am I suffering like this? Is God punishing me for something?

Reader 1: “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding” (Job 38:4).

Reader 2: Do I really deserve to be this miserable? What have I done?

Reader 1: “Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it” (Job 40:2).

Reader 2: I don’t really mean to argue with God. It’s just that sometimes I wonder if He knows what He’s doing with my life.

Reader 1: “Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished. . . . The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps” (Proverbs 16:5, 9).

Reader 2: I understand. It’s nothing God has done. It’s what I have done. “Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment” (Psalm 51:4).

Reader 1: “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith” (Hebrews 10:22).

Reader 2: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You. I justly deserve Your punishment here on earth and for eternity. But from my heart, I am truly sorry for my sins, and I desire to turn away from my sin in repentance. “Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin” (Psalm 51:1–2).

Reader 1: “Your sins are forgiven for His name’s sake” (1 John 2:12).

Reader 2: I’m clean again. I have peace instead of misery. “When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long” (Psalm 32:3). But now, I want to thank You! “How can I repay the Lord for all His benefits to me?” (Psalm 116:12).

Reader 1: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Reader 2: Thanks be to God!

DISCUSSION

What is God’s Law? God’s Law is an expression of God’s will for us and for all people. **What does God teach and do in the Law?** The Law tells us what to do and what not to do and how to act. It condemns sin and sinfulness.

What is the Gospel? The Gospel is the Good News of the forgiveness, new life, and eternal salvation Jesus offers us freely through His life, death, and resurrection. **What does God teach us in the Gospel?** The Gospel is the Good News of the forgiveness, restoration, and salvation God freely offers in Jesus Christ.