

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Original Language: \_\_\_\_\_



1. What is a Catechism? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Which Catechism are we singing about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Who was this hymn first written for? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What does it mean to “mourn our sins”? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. When were we made God’s children? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What does it mean for God to absolve us? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Which Sacrament is being referred to at the close of this hymn?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. When will we “depart in peace”? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Sheet

Author: Ludwig Helmbold.

Date: First published in 1594

Original Language: German

- 1) “A catechism is a book of instruction, usually in the form of questions and answers.” See question 10 in Luther’s Small Catechism.
- 2) The Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther. The catechism was written in 1529.
- 3) Children.
- 4) It means to be sorry for the bad things we have done and ask the Lord for forgiveness. We mourn our sins when we feel guilt for our sins and then repent. Contrition.
- 5) God gives us faith by water and the Word in Holy Baptism.
- 6) It means that God forgives us. Pastors forgive the sins of repentant sinners in the stead and by the command of Jesus Christ.
- 7) The Sacrament of the Altar or Holy Communion.
- 8) When we die we will leave this world and go to heaven because of Jesus death on the cross for us.

Ludwig Helmbold was a Lutheran minister, professor and poet who lived January 21<sup>st</sup> 1532 to April 8<sup>th</sup> 1598.

This hymn points us to the Catechism and reminds us that the Six Chief Parts of Christian doctrine remain important all of life. The presence of all six parts is very clear in the text and invites discussion and instruction:

10 Commandments – Stanza 2

Apostle’s Creed – Stanza 2

The Lord’s Prayer – Stanza 3

Baptism – Stanza 3

Confession – Stanzas 2 & 4

The Sacrament of the Altar – Stanza 4

1 Lord, help us ever to retain  
The Catechism's doctrine plain  
As Luther taught the Word of truth  
In simple style to tender youth.

2 Help us Your holy Law to learn,  
To mourn our sin and from it turn  
In faith to You and to Your Son  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One.

3 Hear us, dear Father, when we pray  
For needed help from day to day  
That as Your children we may live,  
Whom You baptized and so received.

4 Lord, when we fall or go astray,  
Absolve and lift us up, we pray;  
And through the Sacrament increase  
Our faith till we depart in peace.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain – Stanzas 1 & 2**

Lord, help us ever to retain

The Catechism's doctrine plain

As Luther taught the Word of truth

In simple style to tender youth.

Help us Your holy Law to learn,

To mourn our sin and from it turn

In faith to You and to Your Son

And Holy Spirit, Three in One.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain – Stanzas 3 & 4**

Hear us, dear Father, when we pray

For needed help from day to day

That as Your children we may live,

Whom You baptized and so received.

Lord, when we fall or go astray,

Absolve and lift us up, we pray;

And through the Sacrament increase

Our faith till we depart in peace.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain (Stanzas 3 & 4)**

Hear us, dear Father, when we pray  
For needed help from day to day  
That as Your children we may live,  
Whom You baptized and so received.

Lord, when we fall or go astray,  
Absolve and lift us up, we pray;  
And through the Sacrament increase  
Our faith till we depart in peace.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline. There are 10 sets of these lines provided for writing practice.