

“To My Pastor I Confess”

Lyrics by Ryan C. MacPherson

To be sung between vv. 4 and 5 of
“Fear and Love Thy God and Lord” (ELH 510)

To my pastor I confess
All those sins which ache my breast.
I acknowledge before him
That I am entrapped in sin.
From his lips I hear Thy Word
As from Thine own lips ’t were heard.
Thou proclaimest I’m forgiv’n.
Freed by Thee to enter heav’n.

Theological Commentary:

“Fear and Love Thy God and Lord,” as published in the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*, contains five verses. The first presents each of the Ten Commandments. The second summarizes the Apostle’s Creed. The third treats the Lord’s Prayer. The fourth and fifth deal, respectively, with the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Thus, five of the six chief parts of Luther’s *Small Catechism* are rendered in lyrical form. The additional verse provided above completes the musical catechesis by addressing the remaining chief part: The Office of the Keys and Confession.

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“To My Pastor I Confess” a supplementary verse for “Fear and Love Thy God and Lord”

Suggestions for Use in Your Home:

1. Recite or sing as part of your family devotion.
2. Use each verse of “Fear and Love Thy God and Lord” as a tool for reviewing and reinforcing the main points for each of the six chief parts of the Christian faith, as set forth in Luther’s *Small Catechism*.
3. Memorize these verses as a way of internalizing the six chief parts of the Christian faith.

Suggestions for Use in Your Congregation:

1. Print this page, and duplicate the left half for use as a 5.5 x 8.5 inch bulletin insert for congregational singing during a worship service.
2. Use each verse of “Fear and Love Thy God and Lord” as a tool for reviewing and reinforcing the main points for each of the six chief parts of the Christian faith, as set forth in *Luther’s Small Catechism*.
3. Start a tradition of having the Sunday School Children’s Choir sing the hymn on Confirmation Sunday.

For More Information:

“Fear and Love Thy God and Lord” is an English translation B. Pedersen’s Scandinavian hymn “Frygt, mit Barn, den sande Gud.” The *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary* sets it to the melody of *SPANISH CHANT*. Copies of this hymnal are available through the Bethany Lutheran College Bookstore (507-344-7777 or 1-800-944-1722) and other Christian booksellers.

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