



The Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther
The Second Chief Part: The Gospel
The Explanation of the First Article

**I believe that God has made me and all creatures;
 that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them;
 that He richly and daily provides me with food and clothing, home and family, property and goods, and all I need to support this body and life;
 that He protects me from all danger, guards and keeps me from all evil; and all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I am duty bound to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.**

This shows and sets forth most briefly what is God the Father's essence, will, activity, and work. The Ten Commandments have taught that we are to have not more than one God [Deuteronomy 6:4]. So it might be asked, "What kind of person is God? What does He do? How can we praise, or show and describe Him, that He may be known?" Now, that is taught in this and in the following article. So the Creed is nothing other than the answer and confession of the Christians arranged with respect to the First Commandment. It is as if you were to ask a little child, "My dear, what sort of a God do you have? What do you know about Him?" The child could say, "This is my God: first, the Father, who has created heaven and earth. Besides this One only, I regard nothing else as God. For there is no one else who could create heaven and earth. – **Martin Luther, Large Catechism, II, 10-11.**

FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE – Genesis 1:1-4 and John 1:1-4, 14



"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good.'

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

A VERSE TO REMEMBER

When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law; that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts. – **Galatians 4:4-6**

The Shepherds adore the Word made flesh
 Michalangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, oil on canvas, 1609