

## “In Words of Scripture, Duties Call”

The Table of Duties is a very valuable but sometimes overlooked section of the Small Catechism. It consists of carefully chosen Bible verses arranged under the following heads:

- To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers
- What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors
- Of Civil Government
- Of Citizens
- To Husbands
- To Wives
- To Parents
- To Children
- To Workers of All Kinds
- To Employers and Supervisors
- To Youth
- To Widows
- To Everyone

I wrote “In Words of Scripture, Duties Call” in the Luther spirit of singing the Catechism. The hymn aims to help “resurrect” the Table of Duties and to encourage Christians to take to heart their callings and live in them according to God’s Word. Stanza 1 is an introduction, followed then by a stanza for each duty. Only stanzas 1 and 3 are always sung, inserting between them one or more other stanzas appropriate to the day or lesson. Thus the hymn always ends with the duty “To Everyone” and, in the very last place, the Trinitarian duty of God Himself.

Through the selection of appropriate stanzas, this hymn has many uses. For example, by inserting stanzas 4 and 5 it becomes an ordination or installation hymn. Or insert stanzas 8 and 9 and it becomes a wedding hymn.