Albrecht Dürer achieved the highest woodcut artistry with his picture of the Holy Trinity. God the Father receives God the Son as the sacrifice for the world’s sins, while God the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, hovers over them. Angels hold the various instruments of our Lord’s torture and execution. Left: The cross, crown of thorns, and whip. Right: Hyssop branch with the sponge and the post where Christ was beaten. Dürer deeply admired Martin Luther and was won over for the Lutheran Reformation.
John Oecolampadius (1482–1531)

Ally of Zwingli who opposed Luther at the Marburg Colloquy (1529). Condemned in Article X of the Augsburg Confession.

Ulrich Zwingli (1484–1531)

Leader of the “Sacramentarians.” The Romanists tried to lump all Protestants together. The Augsburg Confession was clear that Lutherans rejected the teachings of Zwingli and others like him. After Zwingli died in battle, John Calvin continued Zwingli’s work, creating the Reformed churches.
although listing all sins is not necessary for Confession. For, according to the Psalm, it is impossible. “Who can discern his errors?” (Psalm 19:12).

ARTICLE XII

Repentance

Note: The Roman teaching about repentance was the spark that ignited the Lutheran Reformation. When Luther learned his congregational members were buying indulgences, hoping to avert God’s punishment for sins by paying money, he was incensed. Repentance is not about “paying off” God or making some satisfaction for our sin. Repentance is recognizing the reality of our sin and turning to God in faith for His mercy. God reveals our sin through His Law; He forgives our sin and restores us to a right relationship with Him through His Gospel. While we affirm there is fruit of repentance, the focus of the Gospel must be clear: our sins are forgiven only because of Christ. Our lives in Christ are lives of repentance, returning again and again to the fount and source of all mercy, our Savior. Notice that this article rejects any teaching that implies our works of satisfaction are part of true repentance. Article XII strikes a fatal blow at the very heart of the Roman sacramental system. (See also Ap XII; SA III III; Appendix B, An Exhortation to Confession.)

Selling Indulgences

The Pope (center) hands a commission to sell indulgences to a monk. Right: The purchase of an indulgence, with people being directed where to put their money. Left: A lame man asks for help, while others purchase their indulgences. Their names are being written on the indulgence receipt.
THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

Answer: We should fear and love God so that we may not deceitfully belie, betray, slander, or defame our neighbor, but defend him, think and speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.
THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

Answer: We should fear and love God so that we may not craftily seek to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or obtain it by a show of justice and right, or any other means, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.
THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant, or his maidservant, or his cattle, or anything that is his.

What does this mean?

Answer: We should fear and love God so that we may not turn, force, or entice away our neighbor’s wife, servants, or cattle, but urge them to stay and carefully do their duty.
WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT ALL THESE COMMANDMENTS?

Answer: He says:

I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.
[Exodus 20:5–6]

What does this mean?

Answer: God threatens to punish all who sin against these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not act contrary to these commandments. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.
II. THE CREED
As the Head of the Family Should Teach It in the Simplest Way to His Household

THE FIRST ARTICLE
Creation

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

Answer: I believe that God has made me and all creatures. He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my limbs, my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them. In addition, He has given me clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods. He provides me richly and daily with all that I need to support this body and life. He protects me from all danger and guards me and preserves me from all evil. He does all this out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this I ought to thank Him, praise Him, serve Him, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.
Redemption

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

Answer: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil. He did this not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, so that I may be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.