

Name _____

Theses of Martin Luther

On October 31, 1517, the German Augustinian monk Martin Luther is said to have nailed his 95 *Theses* to the castle church door at Wittenberg, Germany. Though this incident may be legendary, he definitely gave his *Theses* to some friends and students. And this event, true or not, has been portrayed in numerous manners and is the great symbol of what came to be known as the Protestant Reformation. Listed below are some selected entries from Luther's *Theses*:

Therefore, those preachers of indulgences err who say that, by the Pope's indulgence, a man may be exempt from all punishments, and be saved.

Yea, the Pope remits the souls in Purgatory no penalty which they, according to the canons, would have had to pay in this life.

All penalties may be granted, it is certain that it is granted only to those most approaching perfection, that is to very few.

Therefore the multitude is misled by the boastful promise of the paid penalty, whereby no manner of distinction is made.

Christians should be taught that it is not the Pope's opinion that the buying of indulgence is in any way comparable to works of charity.

Christians should be taught that he who gives to the poor, or lends to a needy man, does better than buying indulgence. For, by the exercise of charity, charity increases and man grows better, while by means of indulgence, he does not become better, but only freer from punishment.

Christians should be taught that he who sees his neighbor in distress, and nevertheless buys indulgence, is not partaking in the Pope's pardons, but in the anger of God.

Christians should be taught that unless they are rich enough, it is their duty to keep what is necessary for the use of their households, and by no means to throw it away on indulgences.

Christians should be taught that the buying of indulgences is optional and not commanded.

Christians should be taught that the Pope in selling pardons, has more want and more desire of a devout prayer for himself than of the money.

Christians should be taught that the Pope's pardons are useful as far as one does not put confidence in them, but on the contrary most dangerous if through them one loses the fear of God.

Questions:

1. How does Luther portray God?
2. How does Luther portray the Church?
3. With what is Luther most concerned?
4. What feelings does Luther emit from this document?

Name _____

God's Grandeur

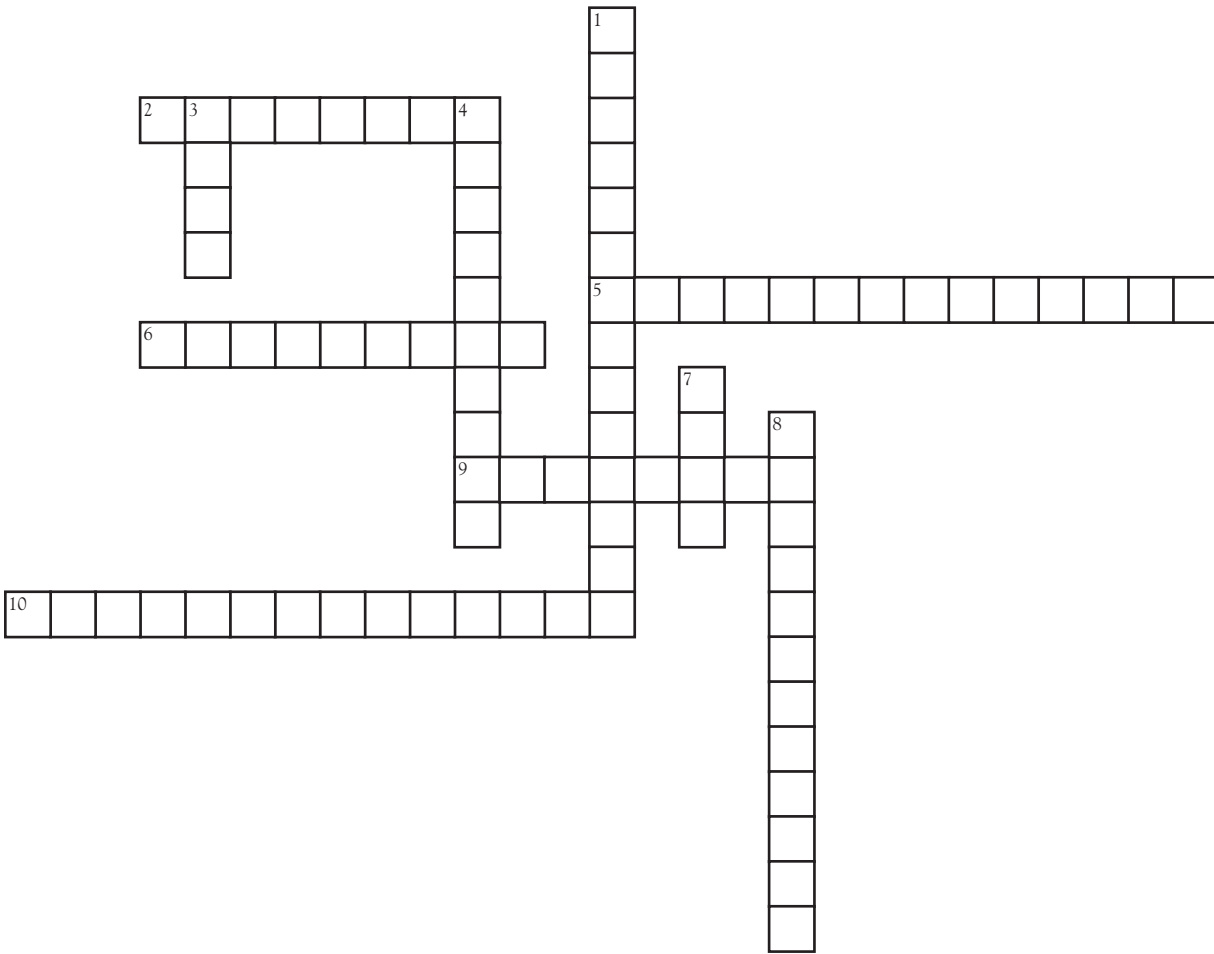
by Gerard Manley Hopkins

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not wreck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

Name _____

Christianity Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. "and the Son."
5. witness the good news
6. beggar
9. outgrowth of the Church of England
10. manifests gifts of the Holy Spirit

Down

1. back to the Bible basics
3. window to heaven
4. movement encouraging understanding among various Christian groups
7. splinter group from main religious body
8. discrimination against Jews