



# **Apostle's Creed**

## The Third Article

## **I Believe in the Holy Spirit..., part 1**

*In part one of the third article, we're looking at the Holy Spirit calling us by the Gospel.*

### **Read:**

Read the third article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning on page 17 in your catechism and Ephesians 2:8-10 in your Bible.

Of the three persons of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is easily the most difficult to grasp. He has no physical presence like Jesus did and no human parallel like God the Father. But the Holy Spirit is constantly at work in the heart of believers in Jesus.

In John 11 we find the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. (Look it up, it's a quick read.) By the time Jesus gets to him, Lazarus has been dead for four days. But Jesus has the stone moved away from Lazarus' tomb and calls to him, "Lazarus, come out." And he did. This dead man, at Jesus' call, came back to life.

In the meaning of the third article, we read that we cannot, on our own, believe in Jesus or come to Him. On our own, we are spiritually dead, like Lazarus was physically dead. But we go on to read that the Holy Spirit "has called me by the Gospel." Just like Jesus' call to Lazarus raised him from the dead, the Holy Spirit's call to us by the Gospel raises us from spiritual death. The Holy Spirit brings us to Jesus by bringing the promise of the Gospel to us and by giving us faith in Jesus through that Gospel.

### **Reflect:**

Do you think Lazarus had a new perspective on life after being raised from the dead? What do you think was different for him?

The Holy Spirit calls you to new life, a life following Jesus as Lord, and being in a right relationship with God through Jesus. What is the danger of ignoring the Holy Spirit's call in your life?

Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit is described with a variety of titles and descriptions. Look up these verses: John 14:16, John 16:13, Romans 8:26, John 14:26, Romans 8:16. In which ways have you seen the Holy Spirit show up in your life?

**Write:**

Look up and write Ephesians 2:1-2 and 4-5 in your own words.

**Respond:**

The Holy Spirit is called a guide, teacher, faith-giver, and intercessor (person who prays on behalf of someone else) for us. He gives us the courage to turn away from sin, confidence in Jesus' promises, and hope in really hard situations. Identify one area of your life where you've experienced the work of the Holy Spirit.

Pray that you will continue to see the work of the Holy Spirit around you and thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the gift of faith.

**The Third Article:****I Believe in the Holy Spirit..., part 2**

*In part two of the third article we're looking at the work the Holy Spirit is doing inside of a believer in Jesus.*

**Read:**

Read the third article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning on page 17 in your catechism and Romans 12:6-8 and Galatians 5:22-25 in your Bible.

Remember when you were little and Christmas or your birthday was coming? What kind of gifts did you want? Probably toys, right?

Whatever toy had the best commercial on TV was the one you wanted? But as you've gotten older your wish list has probably changed some. Now you're asking for gifts that are more useful...a cellphone, a computer, a car. As we get older we seem to want things that help us do what we want to do (or need to do) better.

The Holy Spirit is a gift-giver. He doesn't give Easy-Bake ovens, or fishing poles,

or iPads. He gives spiritual gifts. In the Romans passage, you read about different gifts the Holy Spirit gives. (There's also a list in 1 Corinthians 12.) Because God has made each of us unique and has unique work for each of us to do He has given each of us a set of gifts.

Romans describes the gifts like the parts of the body...each is its own part, but they all work together to make the body able to do its job. The gifts of the Holy Spirit all work together, in each of us, to help the church do its job...sharing the Gospel with the world.

How can you tell if a tree is an apple tree? By the apples growing on it. How can you tell if someone is living a life filled by the Spirit? By the spiritual fruit, they produce. The Galatians passage you read lists nine fruits that the Holy Spirit produces in the life of a believer in Jesus.

In the case of spiritual gifts, we each have a unique combination given to us by the Holy Spirit. But in the case of spiritual fruit, He wants to produce all of them in each of us. A mark of spiritual maturity is how the fruits of the Spirit are showing in our lives.

**Reflect:**

When you read the list of spiritual gifts in Romans 12, do any of them sound like you?

When you look at the list of the fruits of the Spirit, which ones come easy for you? Which are more difficult?

**The Third Article:  
I Believe in the Holy Spirit..., part 3**

*In part three of the third article, we're looking at the other items confessed at the end of the Creed.*

**Read:**

Read the third article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning on page 17 in your catechism. Read the Bible passages associated with each of the headings below.

The third article of the Apostles' Creed covers a lot of ground. While the first article talks about God the Father, the second about Jesus the Son, the third article covers

the Holy Spirit, the church, saints, forgiveness, resurrection, and eternal life. Was this just a catch-all article? A place to add all the little bits and pieces of the faith before the Creed was finished?

Let's do some defining of the things listed in the third article:

Read Ephesians 2:19-22. This phrase is tricky because it uses two words, church and communion, in ways different from how we normally use them.

By church, we most often mean a building. But the holy Christian Church is actually people. Everyone who shares faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior is a member of the holy Christian church.

By communion we usually mean the sacrament of the altar, taking the body and blood of Jesus during a worship service. But in this case, communion means being joined in fellowship or a deep relationship.

So, on a huge scale, when we say we believe in the holy Christian church and the communion of saints we're really saying the same thing: we believe that we are joined together, by faith, with all those who believe in Jesus. As of 2016, there are around 2.2 billion Christians in the world. That's a big church!

But also, on a smaller scale, we're saying that we believe that being a part of a local congregation is important. Worshiping regularly with other Christians, being connected with other believers in small groups...these are ways the Holy Spirit does His work of keeping us in the true faith.

Read 1 John 1:9. Pretty self-explanatory, but worth repeating: we believe that because of Jesus' death and resurrection God will not hold our sins against us. Our sins are forgiven!

Read Job 19:25-27. Remember this: Humans are humans and angels are angels. You will not become an angel when you get to heaven. That shouldn't be disappointing though, because we believe that our bodies will be resurrected, brought back to life, perfect and holy, free from sin, death, and all evil in a new, immortal, and glorified body (Large Catechism II, 58.). We will live the life God originally intended before sin made it broken.

How does this all connect with the Holy Spirit? He works through the church and the communion of saints to nurture and strengthen our faith. He works through the forgiveness of sins as He sanctifies us (makes us holy), and He does all this so that

at the resurrection we can receive eternal life with Him and the Father and the Son.

**Reflect:**

How has your connection to Salem Lutheran affected your faith walk?

What other churches or faith families have been a part of your development as a Disciple of Jesus?

**Write:**

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in each of these areas and how have you seen His work in your life?

Holy Christian Church

The communion of saints

Forgiveness of sins

The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting

**Respond:**

Make a list of people that the Holy Spirit has used in your life to teach you about the importance of God's church, forgiveness, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Pray a prayer of thanks for their faithfulness.

Who is one person you could ask the Holy Spirit to help you to share these truths with?

**Write:**

How would you describe the work of each person of the Trinity?

God the Father:

God the Son:

God the Holy Spirit:

**Reflect:**

Which part of the Apostles' Creed is most important to you?

How has your understanding of God changed or deepened after working through these lessons?

**Respond:**

Look up 1 Peter 3:15. Using the Apostles' Creed, write an "elevator speech," a short explanation of what you believe about God. Memorize it so that you're ready to give an answer for the hope that you have.

# Conclusion

You did it! You worked through all these pages and all these lessons. You've read, reflected, written, and responded. You've spent time in God's word, in your catechism, and talking with people who have followed Jesus for a while. And here you are.

So what?

So what did you learn? Are you more aware of God's activity in your life than you were before? Are you more aware of His incredible love for you? Of the value of the gift of Jesus? Do you love Him more?

Are you different than you were before? Did thinking and learning about all of this change you inside? Do you see the world differently? Do you see your relationships with other people differently? Your relationship with Jesus?

We sure hope so. We hope and pray that you haven't just put in time in this journal. That you haven't just scribbled down words in a hurry to get it done. We hope that you've encountered the living, loving, almighty, saving God as you've done this work. And we hope that you're different because of it.

So, now what?

What's next? Some of you will join us next year for one more year of learning and growing in your faith. If this is your second year of Confirmation, you'll take part in the Rite of Confirmation and publicly share what you believe with our faith family and that's awesome! Then what? How will confirming your faith live out in your day-to-day life? Don't let this be something that was just a moment in time. Let this be another step in a lifelong journey of following and becoming more like Jesus. Let confirming your faith be something you do every day. Let everything you do be rooted in who you are as a loved, forgiven, chosen, child of God.

## **Chapter 6 Apostles Creed**

### **Family Homework:**

*Family Homework is meant to be an opportunity to get the family talking about spiritual things. Multiple studies show that parents and grandparents are the #1 faith role models in a student's life. We know life is busy, but we want to give you opportunities to grow together. The best time to do this is together in the car, while eating a meal together, or simply anytime you can spend some time together. Don't focus quite so much on the 'perfect' answers, focus on the time together.*

### **Students, ask your parents:**

- 1. Is there a quote or a statement that you have remembered or held on to for a long time that has meaning in your life?*
- 2. Who said it? Why is it important? What is significant about the quote or statement?*
- 3. Why do you think Christians have been using the Apostle's creed for all these centuries?*
- 4. What part of the Apostle's Creed is important to you or do you find most significant to you?*
- 5. What does the Apostle's Creed tell you about God's character?*

### **Creed Statement:**

*The Apostle's Creed has defined what Christians believe about God for centuries. It guides what we say, what we believe, and how God works in our lives today. Come up with your own creed. Create your own statement of belief or your creed. A good place to start is to think about: Who you are, your purpose, your relationships your grounding. Write out 3-5 sentences that define and state who you are and what you are about.*

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Apostles Creed 3rd Petition: Check-In

The Holy Spirit makes us holy, in other words He \_\_\_\_\_.

### Which of the follow does describe the Holy Spirit?

- Sanctifies us
- Strengthens our faith
- Transforms us into angels
- Gives spiritual gifts
- Calls us back to life
- Calls us to a new life
- Tricks us
- Is the most important part of the trinity

Of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is easily....

The Holy Spirit is a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.

### What kinds of gifts does the Holy Spirit give?

### How are spiritual gifts like parts of a body?

**When you asked a trusted adult which gifts they saw in you, did their answer surprise you? Did you agree?**

Answer:

### Surprise?

- Yes    No

### What are the two definitions of "communion"?

Definition 1 -

Definition 2 -

# Memory Verses 2022-2023

\*ESV

## Chapter 1: Baptism

Complete by Sunday, Sept. 25 - Acts 2: 38-39

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 2: The Sacrament of the Altar

Complete by Sunday, Oct. 30 - 1 Corinthians 11:26

"Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 3: Ten Commandments Part 1

Complete by Sunday, Nov. 13 - Matthew 5:19

"Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 4: Ten Commandments Part 2

Complete by Sunday, Jan. 29 Joshua 1:8-9

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Chapter 5: The Apostle's Creed**

Complete by Sunday, Feb. 26th - Romans 10:10

"It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Chapter 6: The Apostle's Creed Part 2**

Complete by Sunday, March 26th - Psalm 139:7-10

"Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me."

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_