

**First Lutheran Church of Venice
Foundations Class – Fall 2013
Session 5 – The Story That Shapes Us: The Apostles' Creed II/III**

The Apostles' Creed II - Continued

- I. Questions/Reflections on 2nd Article?
- II. Demystifying “church speak”
 - a. **TWO WAYS** of speaking the GOSPEL = what God has done FOR YOU in Jesus
 - i. **IMAGE (METAPHOR), PROBLEM (LAW), SOLUTION (GOSPEL)**
 - ii. **REDEMPTION**
 1. **Read Luther's Explanation to the 2nd Article**
 2. Bible passages: Ex. 15:13, Deut. 7:7-9, Is. 43:1, 44:21-23, 52:3, 9; Mt. 13:44-45, 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Gal. 3:13, 4:4-5; Col 1:13-14, 1 Pet. 1:18-21
 - iii. **JUSTIFICATION**
 1. **Read Rom. 3:19-28**
 2. Other passages: Is. 53:11, 1 Cor. 6:11, 2 Cor. 5:21, Gal. 2:16, 21; Titus 3:5-7
 - b. Scripture uses **MANY ways**: Birth, Life, Salvation, Bread and Water, Light, Forgiveness, Intercession, Adoption, Inheritance, Reconciliation, Peace, Marriage, Expiation, Sacrificial Lamb, Hallowing/Cleansing, Liberation, Victory

The Apostles' Creed III – The Holy Spirit

If you ask a Christian to describe Jesus Christ, they will likely be able to tell you many things about Him and His work. If you ask them about God the Father, they may describe His work of creation or talk about prayer. What about when you ask a Christian to describe the Holy Spirit? Or, step outside of the Church. What are common perceptions of the “Holy Spirit” in popular culture?

What does the Holy Spirit do?

- I. ***The Revealing Spirit***
 - a. Read John 14:25-26
 - b. Read John 16:5-15
 - c. The revelatory work of the Spirit is manifest in the Scriptures He inspired (2 Pet. 1:21)

- d. Why do we need such a revelation?

II. *The Life-Giving Spirit*

- a. Read the Third Article and Luther's explanation
- b. According to Luther's explanation (and Scripture), what chance do we have of finding God and deciding to follow Jesus on our own?
 - i. Read Ephesians 2:1-5 (see also 1 Cor. 2:9-14, Col. 2:11-15).
 - ii. Since we are ***spiritually dead***, we need ***re-birth***. That is why the Scriptures speak of "conversion" to faith in Jesus as being "born again" by the Holy Spirit (John 3:5).
- c. If I can't receive Jesus on my own, how does it happen?
 - i. Luther's explanation
 - ii. Through the "means of grace" (more on this next week)
 - 1. The Preaching of the Good News – 1 Pet. 1:23-25, Rom. 10:17
 - 2. Baptism – Titus 3:5-7; Lord's Supper
- d. As we are "awakened" through the means of grace, The Spirit's life-giving work continues in the life of the Christian through His work of ***sanctification***.
 - i. Rom. 6:18, Eph. 2:10, 1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19
 - ii. Fruit of the Spirit - Gal. 5:16-26

- ## III. Many people would describe themselves as *spiritual* today. Given this understanding of the Holy Spirit, what might a Christian *spirituality* look like?