

**Congregation at Prayer**  
**✠ Second Sunday of Easter ✠**

*A Guide for Daily Family Prayer  
For the Week of April 28<sup>th</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup>*

Catechesis Notes for the Week...

[Taken from Luther's Large Catechism, which is in our Book of Concord, Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions.]

40] Learn, then, to understand this article most clearly. If you are asked: What do you mean by the words: I believe in the Holy Ghost? you can answer: I believe that the Holy Ghost makes me holy, as His name implies. 41] But whereby does He accomplish this, or what are His method and means to this end? Answer: By the Christian Church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 42] For, in the first place, He has a peculiar congregation in the world, which is the mother that begets and bears every Christian through the Word of God, which He reveals and preaches, [and through which] He illumines and enkindles hearts, that they understand, accept it, cling to it, and persevere in it.

43] For where He does not cause it to be preached and made alive in the heart, so that it is understood, it is lost, as was the case under the Papacy, where faith was entirely put under the bench, and no one recognized Christ as his Lord or the Holy Ghost as his Sanctifier, that is, no one believed that Christ is our Lord in the sense that He has acquired this treasure for us, without our works and merit, and made us acceptable to the Father. What, then, was lacking? 44] This, that the Holy Ghost was not there to reveal it and cause it to be preached; but men and evil spirits were there, who taught us to obtain grace and be saved by our works. 45] Therefore it is not a Christian Church either; for where Christ is not preached, there is no Holy Ghost who creates, calls, and gathers the Christian Church, without which no one can come to Christ the Lord. 46] Let this suffice concerning the sum of this article. But because the parts which are here enumerated are not quite clear to the simple, we shall run over them also.

47] The Creed denominates the holy Christian Church, *communio sanctorum*, a communion of saints; for both expressions, taken together, are identical. But formerly the one [the second] expression was not there, and it has been poorly and unintelligibly translated into German *eine Gemeinschaft der Heiligen*, a communion of saints. If it is to be rendered plainly, it must be expressed quite differently in the German idiom; for the word *ecclesia* properly means in German *eine Versammlung*, an assembly. 48] But we are accustomed to the word church, by which the simple do not understand an assembled multitude, but the consecrated house or building, although the house ought not to be called a church, except only for the reason that the multitude assembles there. For we who assemble there make and choose for ourselves a particular place, and give a name to the house according to the assembly.

**Responsive Prayer 2, Lutheran Service Book p.285**

Learn-By-Heart Scripture...

**Romans 8:14-15**

*For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"*

Learn-By-Heart Catechism...

**The Creed**

**What is the Third Article?**

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**What does this mean?**

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but eh Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Daily Readings...

*Monday (4/28): Exodus 22:20—23:13; Luke 4:16-30*

*Tuesday (4/29): Exodus 23:14-33; Luke 4:31-44*

*Wednesday (4/30): Exodus 24:1-18; Luke 5:1-16*

*Thursday (5/1): Exodus 25:1-22; Luke 5:17-39*

*Friday (5/2): Exodus 31:1-18; Luke 6:1-19*

*Saturday (5/3): Exodus 32:1-14; Luke 6:20-38*

*Sunday (5/4): Exodus 32:15-35; Luke 6:39-49*

Prayer of the Week...

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Psalm of the Week...

*Psalm 148*

Hymn of the Week... "O Sons and Daughters of the King"

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Looking Forward to Next Week...

*Third Sunday of Easter ~ Acts 2:14-41*

*1 Peter 1:17-25*

*Luke 24:13-35*