

Sola Confirmation Series: Apostles' Creed

Third Article Study Sheet - Test Date: _____

PART A: CATECHISM

For the test, you will need to memorize the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, and Martin Luther's explanation of it in the Small Catechism, as printed here:

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. (*or "catholic")

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 the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith. In the same way, he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and preserves it in unity with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church, he daily forgives abundantly all my sins and the sins of all believers. At the last day, he will raise me and all the dead and will grant everlasting life to me and to all who believe in Christ. This is most certainly true!

On the test you will be given a "fill-in-the-blank" text like the one that follows (note: the blanks on the actual test itself will be different from those printed here).

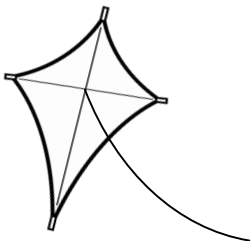
The Third Article: I _____ in the _____, the holy _____ church, the _____ of _____, the _____ of _____, the _____ of the _____, and the _____ everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean? I _____ that I _____ by my _____ reason or _____ believe in _____ Christ my _____ or _____ to _____; but the Holy _____ has _____ me _____ the Gospel, _____ me with his _____, and _____ and _____ me in the _____ faith. In the same _____, he _____, _____, enlightens and _____ the whole _____ church on _____, and _____ it in _____ with _____ Christ in the _____ true _____. In this _____ church, he _____ forgives _____ all my _____ and the _____ of all _____. At the last _____, he will _____ me and _____ the _____ and will _____ everlasting _____ to _____ and to all who _____ in _____. This is _____ certainly _____!

PART B: MEMORY SYMBOLS

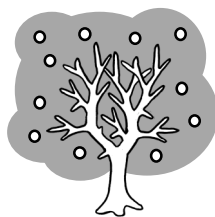
For the test, you will need to be able to say something about the three "memory symbols" featured in the lessons on the First Article, and explain what they tell us about God:

Justification



A kite only flies when lifted by the wind; we are "made right" with God in faith by the power of the Spirit.

Sanctification



The Holy Spirit sets us apart and makes us holy, so that we would produce the good fruit of the Spirit.

Election



God "elects" us by lighting the fire of faith in us; and God uses us to bring his Word into the lives of others.

PART C: VOCABULARY & QUESTIONS FROM THE UNIT

For the test, you will need to know the meaning of some important words and ideas (theme words, topics from the Small Catechism and the Bible, etc.). Questions will be asked as matching, fill-in-the-blank, or true/false, multiple choice, etc:

1. Important Words from this Unit

- a. inspiration = to be filled with the Spirit; to be guided by the Spirit (ie. "in-spirit")
- b. justification = to be made right with God (when God gives us the gift of faith)
- c. sanctification = to be made holy, to be set apart by God
- d. election = to be chosen for a purpose (God chooses us to be his people)
- e. holy = set apart because of God, special because of God
- f. enlighten = to shed light on = to give understanding
- g. gospel = the good news that Jesus has died and rose again to save us
- h. fruit of the Spirit = the good things that we feel and do, because God's Spirit is in us
- i. communion of saints = all the true believers in the world who have faith in Jesus Christ
- j. resurrection = to be raised to new and eternal life
- k. Sheol = the Hebrew word for "the place of the dead" (also called "Hades")
(the place where the dead rest until the resurrection)

2. What is the name of the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples?

On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit appeared as flames of fire

3. In the Creed, what is the "holy Christian Church"(or "holy catholic church") or "communion of saints"?

The "communion of saints" includes all people who trust and believe in Jesus Christ

– ie. the one universal church to which all believers in Christ belong, no matter what denomination.

4. If nobody can earn their way into heaven by what they do, why would anybody do good?

By his gift of faith, God makes us right with him. When we are right with God, we *want* to do good. (It's just like Jesus says: a good tree produces good fruit)

5. Review classroom page 41, using the image of a candle to describe "Our Life, Death, and Life"

New Candle (birth), Lit Candle (faith), Used Candle (death), Remade Candle (resurrection)

6. How does the same example of the candle illustrates the way faith happens through God's Word?

- a) Candles can't light themselves = humans can't make themselves have faith
- b) Candles need someone to light them = only God's Spirit can give us faith; he does it through the Word
- c) The purpose of a candle is to shed light = God wants our faith to show by the way we live our lives
- d) One candle can be used to light another = God uses us to bring God's Word into the lives of others
- the Spirit and faith move from one person to another: Mouth ► Word ► Ears ► Hearts & Minds

7. False Statements:

False: If we work hard, we can earn the right to go to heaven.

False: Believing that God exists is the same as having faith in God

False: When good people die, they go to heaven to become angels

8. True Statements:

True: In the original languages of the Bible, the word for 'spirit' can also be translated as *Wind* or *Breath*

True: The Holy Spirit is God; The Holy Spirit gives us faith and life.

True: To have faith in something means you trust it.

True: A person is saved by faith, not by doing good deeds.

True: True faith is not something a person can just decide to have.

True: Jesus said: "I am the vine and you are the branches... You did not choose me; I chose you" (John 15).

True: Every faithful Christian is both a Saint and a Sinner (ie. we are both good *and* bad trees).

True: Even though we are saved, we still need forgiveness.

True: All people will rise from the dead on the last day; there will be a final judgment of all people.

True: God has promised me forgiveness and eternal life.

True: Because of Jesus Christ and what he has done, we can know for sure that we are saved.