

# Sola Confirmation Series: Apostles' Creed

First 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 First Article** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**What does this mean?** I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that he has given me and still preserves my body and soul, my eyes and ears, my reason and all my senses, together with food and clothing, home and family and all my property. Every day he provides abundantly for all the needs of my life. He protects me from all danger, and guards and keeps me from every evil. He does this purely out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore I ought to thank, praise, serve and obey him. 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 First Article:** I \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ almighty, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**What does this mean?** I \_\_\_\_\_ that God has \_\_\_\_\_ me and all that \_\_\_\_\_; that \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ me and still \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ and soul, my \_\_\_\_\_ and ears, my \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ my senses, \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ and clothing, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and all my \_\_\_\_\_. Every \_\_\_\_\_ he provides \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of my \_\_\_\_\_. He \_\_\_\_\_ me from all \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ me from \_\_\_\_\_ evil. He \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_ and divine \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, though I do not \_\_\_\_\_ it. Therefore I ought to \_\_\_\_\_, praise, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ him. \_\_\_\_\_ is most \_\_\_\_\_ true!

## PART B: MEMORY SYMBOLS

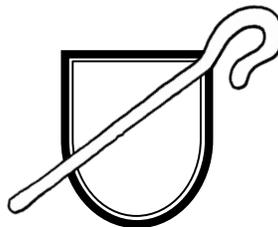
For the test, you will need to be able to say something about the three "memory symbols" featured in the lessons on the First Article, and explain what they tell us about God:

### Creation



Like the created universe, a pocket-watch is an ordered and complicated mechanism that requires a creator.

### Providence



Like a shepherd with his staff, the Lord leads, defends, and rescues us, because we belong to Him.

### Stewardship



Tools and money, skills and wealth, have been entrusted to us by God to do his work in the world.

Be prepared to give an example or story from the Bible that illustrates these themes (for some ideas, think back to some of the Scripture lessons we talked about in class).

## 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. creed = a statement of faith, written or spoken
- b. creation = something made with artistic skill
- c. providence = to be taken care of and provided for
- d. stewardship = taking care of what belongs to another
- e. article = a distinct part of a written document
- f. preserve = to make sure that something remains in good condition
- g. praise = to speak well of something, or to say how good something is
- h. provide = to supply what is needed for something's care
- i. Trinity = Three-in-One (One God in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
- j. divine = something that is a quality of God himself (god-like, or godly)

### 2. What are the three main reasons we have creeds?

- a) To TEACH the basics of Christianity
- b) To WARN against what we do not believe
- c) To UNITE us in a public statement of faith

### 3. How many articles are there in the Apostles' Creed, and who are they about?

There are three articles in the Creed: the First Article is about God the Father, the Second Article is about God the Son, the Third Article is about God the Holy Spirit)

### 4. What is a *steward*? As Christians, whom do we serve as stewards?

- a. A steward is a person who takes care of what belongs to another
- b. We take care of all that belongs to God; God is the owner; we are simply managers

### 5. What are the two main responsibilities we have as God's stewards?

- a. Taking Care of God's Creation (caring for God's church and God's world)
- b. Supporting God's Work & Mission (sharing God's money and resources)

### 6. What does "percentage giving" refer to? What does "first-fruits giving" refer to?

- a. Percentage Giving means that we return as our offerings a portion of everything God gives us; our offerings are based on a percentage of what we earn or produce
- b. First Fruits Giving means that we give our offering to God first -- before anything else

### 7. False Statements:

False: The Apostles' Creed was written by the twelve apostles

False: Christians believe in three Gods

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

False: Throughout history, people have all had the same scientific world-view

False: Caring for the earth and the environment has nothing to do with God

False: What we do with our money is our own business, not God's

### 8. True Statements:

True: To have *faith* in God means to *trust* in God

True: The Heavenly Father is God, Jesus Christ is God, The Holy Spirit is God

True: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are together one God

True: God created the universe; God protects and defends his creation

True: God said that everything he created is good (Genesis 1)

True: Being a steward is like being a manager of what God has given us

True: We are to use God's gifts by caring for the needs of others

True: Giving an offering in church is an important way we serve and praise God

True: Giving 10% of our income as an offering is called "tithing"