



19 Minutes with Luther

The Second Article

- The Knowledge of God
- Law and Gospel
- Introduction to the Law
- 1st Commandment
- 2nd Commandment
- 3rd Commandment
- 4th Commandment
- 5th Commandment
- 6th Commandment
- 7th Commandment
- 8th Commandment
- 9th & 10th Commandments
- The Conclusion
- The Gospel & the Nature of God
- The Apostles' Creed (Faith)
- 1st Article (Creation)
- 1st Article (Preservation)
- 1st Article (Protection)
- 1st Article (The Fall into Sin)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Person)
- **2nd Article (Christ's Office)**
- 2nd Article (Christ's Work)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Humiliation)
- 2nd Article (Christ's Exaltation)
- 2nd Article (Christian Life)
- 2nd Article (Saved by Faith)
- 3rd Article (The Holy Spirit)
- 3rd Article (Calls)
- 3rd Article (Enlightens)
- 3rd Article (Sanctifies)
- 3rd Article (Keeps in Faith)
- 3rd Article (Invisible Church)
- 3rd Article (Visible Church)
- 3rd Article (Forgiveness)
- 3rd Article (Eternal Life)
- Baptism (Part 1)
- Baptism (Part 2)
- Holy Communion (Part 1)
- Holy Communion (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 1)
- Keys & Confession (Part 2)
- Keys & Confession (Part 3)
- Introduction to the Lord's Prayer
- The Address
- 1st Petition
- 2nd Petition
- 3rd Petition
- 4th Petition
- 5th Petition
- 6th Petition
- 7th Petition
- The Doxology

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

1. In the Old Testament, men were anointed with oil as they were commissioned to serve in the office of prophet, priest, or king for God's people. These men also served as shadows of the coming Savior. Complete the following:

The Old Testament prophets were anointed to _____ God's Word to the people. They were to focus on the good news about the coming _____.

The Old Testament priests were to be an example by leading a _____ life, to serve as mediators by _____ for the people, and to offer _____ for the people's sins.

The greatest king in Israel's history was King David. As king, David firmly established the _____, protected his people from their _____, and governed, or ruled, his people.

2. The Bible calls Jesus the Christ. *Christ* is a Greek word. The Hebrew equivalent is *Messiah*. Both *Christ* and *Messiah* mean "the Anointed One." What does the following verse tell us about Jesus?

"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power" (Acts 10:38).

3. Keep in mind the Old Testament prophet. How did and does Jesus serve us as our Prophet?

4. Keep in mind the Old Testament priest. How did and does Jesus serve us as our Priest?

5. Keep in mind Israel's King David. How did and does Jesus serve us as our King?

6. One of the most important doctrines of Scripture is the vicarious atonement of Christ. This glorious gospel truth assures us that we are at one, that is, at peace, with God as a result of Jesus' work in our behalf. As our substitute Jesus obeyed all of God's laws perfectly and suffered God's horrible wrath and the damnation of hell. Read the following passages. To which part of Christ's vicarious work does each speak? According to each passage, what is the result of Christ's wonderful work?

"Just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous" (Romans 5:19).

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree'" (Galatians 3:13).

7. What comfort for your everyday life do you find in the fact that Jesus serves as your Prophet? as your Priest? as your King?

Luther said:

"[Jesus] the true High Priest has completed His sacrifice. God's Son has given and sacrificed His body and life as a payment for sin. Sin is wiped out, God's wrath is appeased, death is overcome, the kingdom of heaven is won, and heaven is unlocked. Everything is fulfilled and finished, and no one need argue that something still remains to be fulfilled and perfected." (Plass, Vol. 1, p. 195.)

Closing Prayer

O Jesus, Shepherd, Guardian, Friend, my Prophet, Priest, and King, my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, accept the praise I bring. Amen. (CW 358:5.)

At home

- Memorize the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's explanation.
- Read Leviticus chapter 16 (a picture of Jesus' work in our behalf).

Helps

(1) The Old Testament prophets were anointed to preach God's Word to the people. They were to focus on the good news about the coming Savior. The Old Testament priests were to be an example by leading a model life, to serve as mediators by praying for the people, and to offer sacrifices for the people's sins. The greatest king in Israel's history was King David. As king, David firmly established the kingdom, protected his people from their enemies, and governed, or ruled, his people. (2) Jesus was anointed, not with oil but "with the Holy Spirit and power" to be our Prophet, Priest, and King. (3) Jesus preached God's Word during his ministry on earth. He still carries out the office of prophet today by sharing his Word through pastors, teachers, and all Christians. (4) As Priest, Jesus led a perfect life. He then offered himself as the sacrifice who atoned for the sins of all people of all time. Today Jesus intercedes for us before the throne of God. (5) King Jesus established his spiritual kingdom. He won the victory over and protects us from our greatest enemies: sin, death, and Satan. Today he rules in our hearts by his Word and rules all things for our eternal good. (6) As our vicar (substitute), Jesus kept God's law perfectly. His perfection, or righteousness, is credited to us. Second, Jesus took our sins upon himself and paid the price God's justice demands for sin. As a result, we have been freed from the eternal curse of sin and are at peace with God. (7) Jesus our Prophet still shares his word with us today—a constant source of strength, comfort, life, and guidance. We can be confident of our relationship with God and that our prayers are heard, for Jesus our High Priest "always lives to intercede for" us (Hebrews 7:25). As our King, Jesus continues to rule in our hearts by his Word. And because he rules the universe, we can be certain that he will have all things in life work for our good.