



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. The Bible speaks about Christ's state of exaltation, that is, when, according to both his divine and human natures, Jesus again made full use of his divine power and glory, just as he had used it before his humiliation. According to the Apostles' Creed, what are the five steps of Christ's exaltation?
2. In Philippians 2:9-11, Saint Paul wrote, "*God exalted [Jesus] to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*" Saint Peter said in Acts 5:31, "*God exalted [Jesus] to his own right hand as Prince and Savior.*" According to these verses, why did God exalt Jesus?
3. After coming back to life on Easter morning, Jesus physically descended into hell to proclaim his victory over death and the devil. He then "*showed himself . . . and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive*" (Acts 1:3). According to the following passages, what comfort and assurance is ours as a result of Christ's resurrection?

"[Jesus] was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4).

"[Jesus] was delivered over to death [because of] our sins and was raised to life [because of] our justification" (Romans 4:25).

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies" (John 11:25).

4. Many people claim that Jesus did not physically rise from the grave. If that were true, how would your life be different?

5. What do the following words of Jesus tell us about his ascension?

"In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:2,3).

6. The Bible tells us that Jesus now sits at God's right hand, ruling all things. Why is it such a comfort to know that he, who has all power in heaven and on earth, is our dear Savior?

7. From your knowledge of Scripture, share some details about Jesus' return to judge. For example: When will he return? Whom will he judge? On what basis will he judge? What is Scripture's advice regarding Christ's return to judge?

Luther said:

"There can be neither forgiveness of sin nor any salvation if one does not believe the article of the resurrection of Christ; for in it lies all the power of faith and eternal life, as St. Paul says in 1 Cor. 15:14,17f." (Plass, Vol. 1, p. 181.)

Closing Prayer (may be sung)

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, praise, adoration now and forevermore be thine! Amen. (CW 369:4.)

At home

Memorize the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's explanation.

Helps

(1) Jesus descended into hell, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God, and will come again to judge. (2) God exalted Jesus to assure us that he is Lord and Savior. (3) Jesus' resurrection assures us that he is God, that our sins and guilt are paid for in full, that we have been justified (declared "not guilty" by God), and that we too will rise from the grave and live forever. (4) Answers will vary. As Saint Paul said, *"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins"* (1 Corinthians 15:17). In other words, if Christ has not been raised, he is not our Savior and Lord, we have not been justified, and we have no hope for a meaningful life on earth or a life to come in heaven. (5) Jesus' ascension assures us that he will return to take us to the place that he has prepared, where we will live with him forever. (6) Jesus, our Lord and Savior, rules all things for our eternal good and will have all things work together for our eternal good. (7) No one but God himself knows when Jesus will return to judge. Jesus will judge all people, the living and the dead, on the basis of their faith or unbelief. Those who believe in Jesus as Savior will receive eternal life in heaven, while unbelievers will be eternally damned. Since we do not know when Jesus will return, God tells us to watch and be ready at all times.