



# 19 Minutes with Luther

## The Third 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 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 thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the 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 fully forgives all sins to me and 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.

1. Jesus said, *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28:19). What does this verse teach us about the relationship of the Holy Spirit to the Father and the Son? How does the account of Jesus' baptism (see Matthew 3) do the same?

2. How do each of the following passages support the truth that the Holy Spirit is true God?

*"Peter said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit? . . . You have not lied to men but to God'"* (Acts 5:3,4).

*"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there"* (Psalm 139:7,8).

*"Christ . . . through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God"* (Hebrews 9:14).

*"The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. . . . No one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God"* (1 Corinthians 2:10,11).

*“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. . . . For nothing is impossible with God”* (Luke 1:34-37).

3. The work of God the Father is called creation. The work of God the Son is called redemption. What is the work of the Holy Spirit called? Briefly explain the Spirit’s work.

4. Respond to the following statements:

When the Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit, it means the spiritual power and influence of God the Father in the world and in people’s lives.

Christians understand that there are three Gods: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

A member of another church body asks you: “Are you a Christian, or a ‘Spirit-filled’ Christian?”

5. When the Holy Spirit graciously calls a person to faith in Jesus the Savior and into the kingdom of God, he also effects a change in that person’s life and character, filling him with the fruit of the Spirit. Saint Paul mentions the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22. After each “fruit” that Paul mentions, rank yourself from 1 to 10 (1 being weak, 10 being strong) in the evidence of that fruit. Who gets the credit for the fruit you see in your own life? How can Christians grow in these fruits?

*“The fruit of the Spirit is love (\_\_\_), joy (\_\_\_), peace (\_\_\_), patience (\_\_\_), kindness (\_\_\_), goodness (\_\_\_), faithfulness (\_\_\_), gentleness (\_\_\_) and self-control (\_\_\_).”*

#### Luther said:

“We could never attain to a knowledge of the Father’s favor and grace except through the Lord Christ, who is a mirror of his Father’s heart. . . . But about Christ we could know nothing if the Holy Spirit had not revealed it to us.” (Tappert, p. 419.)

#### Closing Prayer (may be sung)

O Holy Spirit, enter in and in our hearts your work begin, your dwelling place now make us. Sun of the soul, O Light divine, around and in us brightly shine, to joy and gladness wake us that we may be truly living, to you giving prayer unceasing and in love be still increasing. Amen. (CW 184:1.)

#### At home

Memorize the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed and Martin Luther’s explanation.

#### Helps

(1) The Holy Spirit is one of the three distinct persons of the triune God. The account of Jesus’ baptism also indicates this distinction. (2) The Bible calls the Holy Spirit God, teaches that he has the characteristics of God (omnipresent, eternal, omniscient), and that he performs works that only God can do (at creation, as intercessor, in converting human hearts). (3) The Holy Spirit’s work is called sanctification, the work by which he calls people out of an unbelieving world to faith in Jesus Christ. (4) The first two statements deny the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit is not simply a force, influence, or power emanating from God the Father. Rather, he is one of the three distinct persons of the triune God. In spite of the fact that the Holy Spirit, like the Father and the Son, has the whole essence of God undivided, there are not three Gods, but one. Human reason cannot comprehend this truth. Every Christian, that is, every person who has been brought to saving faith in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit is “Spirit-filled” (see 1 Corinthians 3:16). Pentecostals and others demand outward, visible proof (speaking in tongues) that one is truly Spirit-filled. (5) The Holy Spirit alone receives that credit and the glory for producing the fruits in a Christian’s life. Christians grow in these fruits through the power of the Holy Spirit alone working in God’s Word and the sacraments.