

Lutheran Confessions

“Let no one separate the Old from the New Testament; let no one say that the Spirit in the former is one, and the Spirit in the latter another; since thus he offends against the Holy Spirit Himself, who with the Father and the Son together is honored, and at the time of Holy Baptism is included with them in the Holy Trinity. For the Only-begotten Son of God said plainly to the Apostles, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” We preach not three gods; let the Marcionites be silenced; but with the Holy Spirit through One Son, we preach One God. The Faith is indivisible; the worship inseparable. We neither separate the Holy Trinity, like some; nor do we as Sabellius work confusion. But we know according to godliness One Father, who sent His Son to be our Savior we know One Son, who promised that He would send the Comforter from the Father; we know the Holy Spirit, who spoke in the Prophets, and who on the Day of Pentecost descended on the Apostles in the form of fiery tongues, here, in Jerusalem, in the Upper Church of the Apostles; for in all things the choicest privileges are with us” (*Lecture XVI, 4 of the Catechetical Lectures by St. Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem, who lived in the 4th century*).

Lutheran Confessions

1] That we may obtain this faith, *the Ministry of Teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted*. For through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, **2]** the Holy Ghost is given, who works faith; where and when it pleases God, in them that hear **3]** the Gospel, to wit, that God, not for our own merits, but for Christ’s sake, justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ’s sake.

4] They condemn the Anabaptists and others who think that the Holy Ghost comes to men without the external Word, through their own preparations and works. (The Augsburg Confession, V)

Put it into Practice

These questions have been put together to help you as you extend and apply tonight’s Scripture to your life.

Prayer

Almighty, everlasting God, cause us always to have a devout will toward You and to serve Your majesty with a pure heart; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**
(*Collect for Exaudi*)

Word of God: St. John 15:26-16:4 (on back)

Questions to Ponder in Prayer

1. The words, “But when the Helper(or “advocate,” see 1 Jn 2:1) comes...,” is a one time act that is completed when Jesus sends the Holy Spirit. When was that time? (See Acts 2)
 2. The words, “who proceeds from the Father” is not speaking about Pentecost Day, but about the eternal procession of the Spirit. See the Athanasian Creed and Nicene Creed. See Note below.
 3. What two titles are given to the Holy Spirit in verse 26? Why?
 4. What is the work of the Holy Spirit according to the end of verse 26?
 5. What is the work of the Apostles according to verse 27?
 6. How do we know that action of “bear witness” is speaking only of the Apostles?
 7. The Holy Spirit has been with Jesus from eternity. What is one of the prerequisites for being an Apostle (v.27b)? Of what “beginning” is Jesus speaking (Acts 1:21-22, 10:39-43, Luke 24:48)?
 8. The words, “falling away,” are from the Greek word, skandalizw (skandalizo) from which we get the English word, scandal. The picture is that of a trap with a crooked stick that holds the bait and springs the trap when touched. Jesus doesn’t want the apostles to be scandalized or caught. How does Jesus keep the disciples from being entrapped?
 9. What two things will be done to these Apostles (v.2)?
 10. Why would they do such things, even considering them to be “service to God”? By these heinous actions, what does Jesus say this reveals? (v.3)
 11. Is the phrase, “knowledge of the Father or me,” speaking of two or one thing?(Jn 5:17-18., 17:3)
 12. What should be the actions of those who are persecuted? (v.4)
 13. How do these verses apply to those who cling to the Apostolic message or those who called to preach the apostolic message? (Eph 2:19-22, Lk 10:16, Jn 20:21)
 14. “I was with you.” Where is Jesus after his Ascension? (Eph 1:20-23, Mt 28:18f)
- Note: In order to combat false teachers, two teachings need to be maintained in speaking of the Trinity. Divine works outside the Trinity(creation, etc.) and which have the world as its object, are not to be ascribed to one person and not to the others, lest we divide the one Deity into three gods. Nevertheless, divine works(begotten from eternity, eternal procession) within the Godhead and which have no bearing upon the world, must be distinguished, lest we confound the three Persons into one Person.

6:30 PM “Learn by Heart”

Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...

Hymn #171, stanza 2
Table of Duties: To Wives: Eph 5:22, To Parents: Eph 6:4
Ephesians 4:10-12

7:00 PM “Catechesis”

+ Opening Verses
“O Lord, open my lips...” p.224

+ Ascription of Praise
“Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia.” p.225

Reading

St. John 15:26-16:4 (back)
Easter Responsory p. 227-228

Hymn

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name” #171

Catechesis on... (back)

St. John 15:26-16:4
Liturgy
Catechism
--prayer based on reading

+ Lord’s Prayer (sung) p.284

+ Responsive Prayer for Catechesis (insert)

Ten Commandments
Lord’s Prayer
Apostles’ Creed
Psalm 43
Collect of the Day
A Prayer for Peace
Benedicamus
Benediction

Catechesis on St. John 15:26-16:4

26“But when the Helper* comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. 27“And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

1“These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. 2“They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. 3“And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. 4“But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

*Paraklito❖ - Paraclitus(Latin), Counselor (NIV, RSV), Comforter(KJV, Becks, TMB), Helper(NKJV, ESV), Advocate

The Holy Spirit and the Apostolic Writings/Scriptures

“Since, therefore, such is the case, and **being instructed from the Prophetic and Apostolic Scriptures, we are sure concerning our doctrine and confession, and by the grace of the Holy Ghost our minds and consciences have been confirmed to a greater degree**, we have thought that this Book of Concord ought to be published. For it seemed exceedingly necessary that, amidst so many errors that had arisen in our times, as well as causes of offense, variances, and these long-continued dissensions, there should exist a godly explanation and agreement concerning all these controversies, derived from God’s Word, according to the terms of which the pure doctrine might be discriminated and separated from the false” (Preface to the Christian Book of Concord).

“First [, then, we receive and embrace with our whole heart] **the Prophetic and Apostolic Scriptures** of the Old and New Testaments as the pure, clear fountain of Israel, which is the only true standard by which all teachers and doctrines are to be judged” (FC Ep Rule and Norm, 3).

The Scriptures, the Creeds(symbols), and the Lutheran Confessions

“Therefore we unanimously reject and condemn, with mouth and heart, all errors not in accordance with the doctrine presented, as contrary to the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures, the pure [received and approved] symbols, and our Christian *Augsburg Confession*” (FC Ep VIII 88).

“We mean that doctrine, which, having been derived from the Prophetic and Apostolic Scriptures, is contained in the three ancient Creeds, in the Augsburg Confession, presented in the year 1530 to the Emperor Charles V, of excellent memory, then in the Apology, which was added to this, in the Smalcald Articles, and lastly in both the Catechisms of that excellent man, Dr. Luther” (Preface to the Christian Book of Concord).

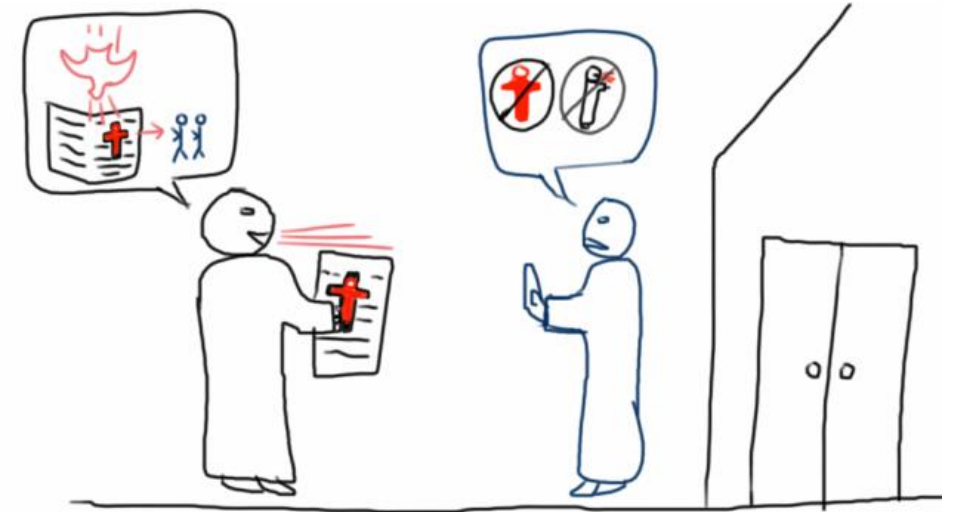
The Apostles and the Helper Testify

“That we may obtain this faith, the Ministry of Teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. For through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, 2] **the Holy Ghost is given**, who works faith; where and when it pleases God, in them that hear 3] the Gospel, to wit, that God, not for our own merits, but for Christ’s sake, justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ’s sake” (AC V).

“Furthermore, the ministry of the New Testament is not bound to places and persons as the Levitical ministry, but it is dispersed throughout the whole world, and is there where **God gives His gifts, apostles**, prophets, pastors, teachers; neither does this ministry avail on account of the authority of any person, but on account of the Word given by Christ” (Treatise, 26).

“For Christ requires that they teach in such a way that [by their mouth] He Himself be heard, because He says: *He heareth Me. Therefore He wishes His own voice, His own Word, to be heard*, not human traditions” (Ap, XXVIII, 19)

Catechesis On St. John 15:26-16:4



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