

## Lutheran Confessions

### Luther in his 1538 Tract

“On the other hand, I have also observed that all errors, heresies, idolatries, offenses, abuses, and ungodliness within the Church originally resulted from the fact that this article of faith concerning Jesus Christ was despised or lost. And viewed clearly and rightly, all heresies militate against the precious article of Jesus Christ, **as Simeon says concerning Him, Luke 2, 34, that He is set for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and for a sign which is spoken against;** and long before this, Isaiah, chapter 8, 14, spoke of Him as ‘a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.’ ” (St. L. 10, 1007; E. 23, 568.)

### Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration, Article V, 23

From the beginning of the world these two proclamations [kinds of doctrines] have been ever and ever inculcated alongside of each other in the Church of God, with a proper distinction. For the descendants of the venerated patriarchs, as also the patriarchs themselves, not only called to mind constantly how in the beginning man had been created righteous and holy by God, and through the fraud of the Serpent had transgressed God’s command, had become a sinner, and had corrupted and precipitated himself with all his posterity into death and eternal condemnation, **but also encouraged and comforted themselves again by the preaching** concerning the *Seed of the Woman, who would bruise the Serpent’s head*, Gen. 3, 15; likewise, concerning the *Seed of Abraham, in whom all the nations of the earth shall be blessed*, Gen. 22, 18; likewise, **concerning David’s Son, who should restore again the kingdom of Israel and be a light to the heathen**, Ps. 110, 1; Is. 49, 6; **Luke 2, 32, who was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities, by whose stripes we are healed**, Is. 53, 5.

(Bente, F., *Concordia Triglotta*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997).

## 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 eternal God, we heartily implore You, grant that we may know and praise Your dear Son as did Simeon, who took Him up in his arms and faithfully knew and confessed Him; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**AMEN** (*Collect for First Sunday after Christmas, by Luther*)

### Word of God: Luke 2:22-40 (on back)

### Questions to Ponder in Prayer

1. Why are Jesus’ parents amazed at the prophesy about Jesus? Didn’t they believe? (Note other “amazement/marveling”: Zechariah’s friends 1:21 and 1:65, the Shepherd’s hearers 2:18).
2. Simeon blesses Joseph and Mary. To whom can you offer a blessing?
3. With verse 34 Simeon speaks to Mary. What effect will this prophesy of a Savior have on Mary?
4. What are the two signs of Jesus? (Luke 2:12, 2:34)
5. What does it mean that Jesus will “cause the falling and rising of many in Israel”? (*Magnificat* Luke 1:51-53)
6. What does this second sign mean? (Luke 20:9-19, Ps 118:22)
7. What will be revealed by Jesus’ coming? (v.35)
8. What is this sword that pierces Mary’s soul? (Mt 10:34-39, Is 49:2, also see Luke 8:19-21)
9. Is it enough to merely be children of Abraham? Note how Jesus’ words will reveal hearts (Mt 13:47-48, Mt 22:11-12)?
10. Anna speaks about the consolation of Israel. What is the consolation of Israel? (Lk 2:25, 38; 23:51)
11. What is significant about Simeon and Anna’s testimony? (Dt 17:6)
12. Why is there no sacrifice mentioned in connection with Jesus’ presentation? (Luke 2:38)
13. How did Jesus’ perfect keeping of the law benefit us? (Gal 4:4-5, Romans 5:19)
14. How is Jesus’ life from day forty to age twelve summarized?

### 6:30 PM “Learn by Heart”

*Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...*

Hymn #36, stanza 1-2  
Holy Baptism, Part One  
Romans 5:19

### 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. Luke 2:22-40 (back)

Hymn  
“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” #36

Catechesis on... (back)  
St. Luke 2:22-40  
Liturgy  
Catechism

--prayer based on reading  
+ Responsive Prayer for Catechesis (insert)

Ten Commandments  
Lord’s Prayer  
Apostles’ Creed  
Psalm 73  
Collect of the Day  
A Prayer for Faith  
Benedicamus  
Benediction

## Catechesis on St. Luke 2:22-40

Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present *Him* to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD”), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup> And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup> So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, <sup>28</sup> he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: <sup>29</sup> “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; <sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen Your salvation <sup>31</sup> Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup> And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against <sup>35</sup> “(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” <sup>36</sup> Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; <sup>37</sup> and this woman *was* a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup> So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their *own* city, Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. (NKJV)

### Jesus Fulfills the Law(Active Obedience)

Galatians 4:4-5, “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, **born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.**”

Romans 5:19, “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also **by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.**” (Also Heb 4:15, Jn 8:46)

### Departing in Peace (The Certainty of Grace)

#### **Internal (faith inside)**

“But faith, properly so called, is that which assents to the promise [is when my heart, and **the Holy Ghost in the heart, says: The promise of God is true and certain**].

Of this faith Scripture speaks” (Ap IV 113-114).

1 John 5:9-10. “If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is **the witness of God which He has testified of His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself**; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.”

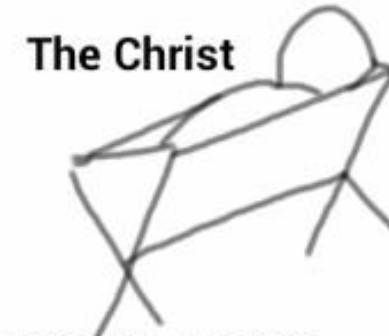
#### **External (sacraments and good works)**

“And yet Christ often connects the promise of the remission of sins to good works, not because He means that good works are a propitiation, for they follow reconciliation; but for two reasons. One is, because **good fruits must necessarily follow**. Therefore He reminds us that, if good fruits do not follow, the repentance is hypocritical and feigned. The other reason is, because **we have need of external signs** of so great a promise, because **155]** a conscience full of fear has need of manifold consolation. As, therefore, **Baptism and the Lord’s Supper** are signs that continually admonish, cheer, and encourage desponding minds to believe the more firmly that their sins are forgiven, so **the same promise is written and portrayed in good works, in order that these works may admonish us to believe the more firmly**. And those who produce no good works do not excite themselves to believe, but despise these promises. The godly on the other hand, embrace them, and rejoice that they have the signs and testimonies of so great a promise. Accordingly, they exercise themselves in these signs and testimonies” (Ap IV, 154-155).

## Catechesis On St. Luke 2:22-40

**GOD**  
*conceived by the Holy Spirit*

*born of the Virgin Mary*



The Christ



Man

**PERSONAL UNION**  
**True God and True Man**

## Trinity Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Learning Center

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# Holy Baptism, 1

“Besides these we have yet to speak of our two Sacraments instituted by Christ, of which also every Christian ought to have at least an ordinary, brief instruction, because without them there can be no Christian... But, in the first place, we take up Baptism, by which we are first received into the Christian Church” (LC IV 1-2).

## The Element: Water

“From this now learn a proper understanding of the subject, and how to answer the question what Baptism is, namely thus, that it is not mere ordinary water, but water comprehended in God’s Word and command, and sanctified thereby, so that it is nothing else than a divine water; **not that the water in itself is nobler than other water**, but that God’s Word and command are added” (LC IV 14). (Also see SA III 5, 2)

John 3:5-6, “Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of **water** and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.’”

Ephesians 5:26, “...that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of **water by the word**...”

## The Command

Jesus gave the command to baptize in Matthew 28:18-20.

Matthew 28:18-20, “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

There are many references in the book of Acts which describe the Apostles baptizing people. These references are not prescriptive (telling us what words to use in Baptism as in Mt 28:19) but are descriptive of what benefits were given in Baptism. Having been baptized “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” that person is united with Jesus.

Acts 2:38, “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

Acts 10:48, “And he commanded them to be baptized **in the name of the Lord**.”

Acts 19:5, “... they were baptized **in the name of the Lord Jesus**.”

Romans 6:3-4, “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

## The Application of Water

“Baptism can be performed by immersion, pouring, or sprinkling, because Βαπτίζειν merely denotes the application of water, without any implication as to the way it is applied” (Christian Dogmatics, v.3, p.256). Furthermore Luke 11:38, “When the Pharisee saw it, he marveled that He had not first washed (ἐβαπτίσθη) before dinner.”

Mark 7:3-4, “For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash (νίψωνται) their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. 4 When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash (βαπτίσωνται). And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing (βαπτισμοῦς) of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.”

The following passages are teaching the effect of baptism, not the particular mode or method of application.

Romans 6:3-4, “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Acts 22:16, “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

Hebrews 10:22, “let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

## The Old Testament

Ezekiel 36:24-28 (29-33), “For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. 25 “Then **I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean**; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 “**I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.** 27 “**I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.** 28 “**Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God....**”

2 Kings 5:14, “So he went down and dipped (ἐβαπτίσαστο, LXX) seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

1 Corinthians 10:1-2, “Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were **baptized into Moses** in the cloud and in the sea...” (Ex 14:19-20).