

## Lutheran Confessions

### Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article XII: Repentance, 151

Second, the saints are subject to death and to all our common afflictions, as Peter says in 1 Peter 4:17, “For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God?” As a rule, these troubles are punishments for sin. Nevertheless, in the godly they serve another purpose. *For they are inflicted to put present sin to death, because in the saints they extinguish and mortify concupiscence. For death remains in the saints in order to abolish this impure nature. Accordingly Paul says [Rom 8:10], “The body is dead because of sin,” that is, is put to death because sin still remains present in the flesh. The cross, therefore, is not a punishment but an exercise and preparation for renewal. For when present sin is put to death and when in the midst of temptations we learn to seek the aid of God and experience God’s presence, we acknowledge more and more the lack of trust in our own hearts and we encourage ourselves by faith.* (Kolb, The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2000, italics from the octavo edition).

### 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

O almighty God, who out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants has ordained strength and made infants to glorify You by their deaths, mortify and kill all vices in us and so strengthen us by Your grace that by the innocency of our lives and constancy of our faith, even unto death, we may glorify Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN. *(Collect for Christmas Two)*

#### Word of God: St. Matthew 2:13-23 (on back)

#### Questions to Ponder in Prayer

Background: Read Matthew 2:1-12. The wise men(Magi) follow a star to Jerusalem. They come to visit Jesus, after finding out from the religious leaders in Jerusalem that the King was to be born in Bethlehem. King Herod also pumps them for information (v.7), and then sends them to find the child and report back to him. These wise men do follow the star to Bethlehem, but are warned in a dream not to return to Herod. The distance from Jerusalem to Bethlehem was only 2 hours.

1. If the wise men followed a star(v.9), at what time of day did they travel to Bethlehem? With their sights now on “Bethlehem,” the Magi may have hurriedly left toward evening and arrived that night.
2. At what time of day are the Magi warned not to return to Herod(v.12)?

*(Continued from “Put it into Practice.”)*

3. After their visit, when is Joseph warned to flee(v.13)? When does Joseph leave? By the next morning, both Magi and the holy Family are gone!
4. God’s ways are not our ways. Should God’s Son need to flee from Herod?
5. How does God deliver us from evil?
6. Though Joseph is not Jesus’ biological father, he had been given the vocation of Father(Mt 1:20-21). And as head of the household, Joseph is to serve Child and mother by protecting them.
7. What is the stated reason for the 10 day trip? How will Joseph know to return?
8. How long did they remain in Egypt? (v. 15). The Jewish historian Josephus records that Herod the Great died a horrible rotting death in the Spring of 4 B.C. If Jesus was born in the winter of 5-4 B.C, and Herod Archelaus ruled from 4 B.C. to 6 A.D. Jesus likely was in Egypt only there a short time of a few years.
9. What do we learn about verbal inspiration from verse 15?
10. The nation Israel, often called God’s Son, who spent time in Egypt and then was led to the Promised Land, is only a picture and foretelling of God’s Son, Jesus, who truly fulfilled the words of Hosea 11:1.
11. How soon could Herod have known that he was tricked by the Magi?
12. Why does he use the cut off of 2 years old or younger? (v.16)
13. Why is a prophesy by “Jeremiah,” the weeping prophet, appropriate?
14. Rachel, the favorite wife of Jacob, is used figuratively to personify the nation Israel. For what was the town of Ramah known? (5 miles North of Jerusalem: It was the town where the Israelites were held before going into exile in Babylon. See Jeremiah 40:1.)
15. Although Matthew only cites Jeremiah 31:15, the comforting section is found in Jeremiah 31:16-17. READ IT NOW. Just as we cannot stop at verse 15, so we must not stop before Jesus’ work is done. What will he do for these martyrs?
16. Is this action consistent with what we know of Herod the Great? Yes, the “Christmas monster” was ruthless, murdering his wife, his three sons, brother-in-law, mother-in-law, uncle and many others. Less than twenty Israelite children wouldn’t have bothered him.
17. How would you comfort the mothers of these Israelite children?
18. How does Joseph know to return? Note: The command for Joseph to return is less urgent(“go” instead of “flee”).
19. Where does it appear that Joseph initially intends to go? (v.22)
20. Why does Joseph go to Nazareth in Galilee? Note: when Archelaus began his reign he massacred 3,000 Jews in Jerusalem who had rebelled against him.
21. Verse 23 says that “He shall be called a Nazarene” was spoken by the Prophets. Where are these references found? Only one prophesy comes close: In Isaiah 11:1, Jesus is called a “shoot,” which in Hebrew is netzer and sounds like Nazareth. It would be better to understand this reference to the many places in which the prophets refer to the Messiah as being despised(Ps 22:6, Is 49:7, etc.)
22. If you were going to raise the world’s Messiah, the region of Judea which included Jerusalem (and Bethlehem) would be the place! The region of Galilee was rejected by the Jews as inhabited by a mixed population and considered rejected as “Galilee of the Gentiles.”

#### 6:30 PM “Learn by Heart”

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

Hymn #36, stanza 3-4  
Holy Baptism, Part Two  
Matthew 2:15b

#### 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. Matthew 2:13-23 (back)

#### Hymn

"Of the Father’s Love Begotten" #36

#### Catechesis on... (back)

St. Matthew 2;13-23  
Liturgy  
Catechism

--solicit prayers based on the reading

+ Magnificat p.228-230

+ Prayers p.231-235

Kyrie  
Lord’s Prayer  
Salutation  
Collect of the Day  
Other Prayers  
Prayers  
At Vespers  
In the Evening  
For Peace  
Benedicamus  
Benediction

## Catechesis on Matthew 2:13-23

<sup>13</sup>Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.”

<sup>14</sup>When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

<sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

<sup>18</sup> “A voice was heard in Ramah,  
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping *for* her children,  
Refusing to be comforted,  
Because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup>But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup>saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup>Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets,

“He shall be called a Nazarene.”

## The Child Jesus, like us, but without sin

“For he willed to veil his majesty and deity, until he had accomplished the redemption of mankind. ... For he did not come to destroy the world and to defend himself with the sword. No, he acts as other human beings, is warned of danger by the angels, and flees from it. ... Christ is by nature true man, born of a virgin, who experienced life on earth as any other man. **He made no difference between himself and others, but behaved and suffered as other men do, with the exception of sin.** As often as we read in the Gospel that he took refuge from danger, he intended to demonstrate himself to be a true man, keeping his deity under cover, to hide it away from the devil.” (Sermon by Luther, Vol 7, p.255)

Philippians 2:7-8, “but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. **8And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself** and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

Hebrews 4:14-16, “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, **but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.** <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

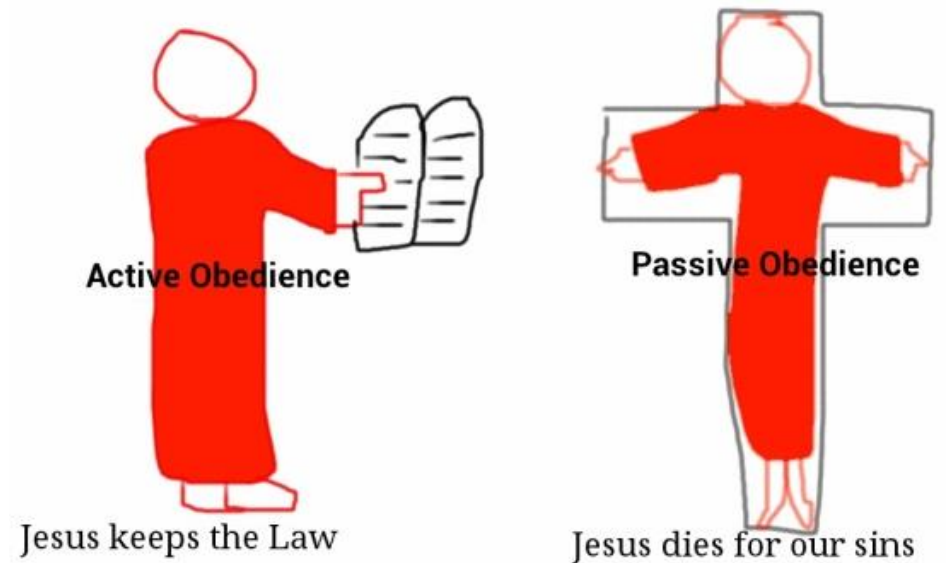
## Defends us ... Guards and Protects us

It’s a lesson for us. If we can flee for refuge, we ought not despise this expedient, as certain enthusiasts do, who as a challenge to the devil refuse to flee, though they could.

**Similarly, there are many today who do not go to church or wish to make use of the stated means of grace which God has ordained, but want something out of the ordinary. But God gave you worldly rulers, princes, lords, and the rest, with pastors, preachers, the Word, baptism, the Sacrament, and many other things, everything that belongs to physical and spiritual life.** If you order your life in accord with these things, as other people do, then you will not go wrong. But if you insist on some peculiar innovation, you act contrary to God’s will and command. (Sermon by Luther, Vol 7, p.264)

Psalms 91:9-10, “Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, **No evil shall befall you,** Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;” (Also 2 Tim 4:18)

## Catechesis On St. Matthew 2:13-23



## Trinity Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Learning Center

1000 North Park Avenue, Herrin, IL 62948  
Church 942-3401, Learning Center 942-4750

[www.trinityh.org](http://www.trinityh.org)

**Pastor Michael D. Henson · Deacon Gary K. Harroun**

*Pr. Henson and Dcn. Harroun are members of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America ([Eldona.org](http://Eldona.org))*

## Holy Baptism, 2

“In the second place, since we now know what Baptism is and how it is to be regarded, we must also learn **for what purpose it was instituted, that is, what benefits, gifts, and effects it brings**. Nor can we understand this better than from the words of Christ quoted above, “He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.” To put it most simply, the power, effect, benefit, fruit, and purpose of Baptism is to save. No one is baptized in order to become a prince, but as the words say, to “be saved.” To be saved, we know, is nothing else than to be delivered from sin, death and the devil and to enter into the kingdom of Christ and live with him forever” (LC IV 23-25).

### **John’s Baptism worked Forgiveness of Sins**

Mark 1:4-5, “John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a **baptism of repentance for the remission of sins**. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.”

### **Forgiveness of Sins through Baptism**

Acts 2:38-39, “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. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’”

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.”

1 Corinthians 6:11, “And such were some of you. But **you were washed**, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

### **Baptism Saves!**

Mark 16:16, “He who believes and is baptized **will be saved**; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

1 Peter 3:18-22, “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 21 **There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism** (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone

into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

Titus 3:5-6, “...not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy **He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit**, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior....”

### **Baptism Rescues from Death and the Devil**

Romans 6:3-5, “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. 5 For if we **have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection**,

### **Baptism unites with Christ, Makes a son of God**

Galatians 3:26-27, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

**For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”**

1 Corinthians 12:13, “For by one Spirit we were **all baptized into one body**—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

Ephesians 4:4-6, “There is **one body and one Spirit**, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, **one baptism**; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

### **Faith clings to God’s Promise concerning Baptism**

“Now, if I believe this, what else is it than believing in God **as in Him who has given and planted His Word into this ordinance**, and proposes to us this external thing wherein we may apprehend such a treasure? Now, they are so mad as to separate faith, and that to which faith clings and is bound, though it be something external.... Now here we have the words: *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*. To what else do they refer than to Baptism, that is, to the water comprehended in God’s ordinance? Hence it follows that whoever rejects Baptism rejects the Word of God, faith; and Christ, who directs us thither and binds us to Baptism (LC IV 29-30, 31).

Mark 16:16, “He who believes and is baptized **will be saved**; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

