

Lutheran Confessions

Small Catechism, taken from A Short Form of Confession

...Then {after the confession} the confessor shall say:

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. Amen.

Furthermore:

Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

Yes, dear confessor.

Then let him, say:

Let it be done for you as you believe. And I, by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Go in peace.

A confessor will know additional passages with which to comfort and to strengthen the faith of those who have great burdens of conscience or are sorrowful and distressed.

The Large Catechism, V. 33-35

33] Thus we have the entire Sacrament, both as to what it is in itself and as to what it brings and profits. Now we must also see who is the person that receives this power and benefit. That is answered briefly, as we said above of Baptism and often elsewhere: **Whoever believes it has what the words declare and bring.** For they are not spoken or proclaimed to stone and wood, but to those who hear them, to whom He says: **34]** *Take and eat*, etc. And because He offers and promises forgiveness of sin, it cannot be received otherwise than by faith. This faith He Himself demands in the Word when He says: *Given and shed for you.* As if He said: For this reason I give it, and bid you eat and drink, that you may claim it as yours and enjoy it. **35]** **Whoever now accepts these words, and believes that what they declare is true, has it.** But whoever does not believe it has nothing, as he allows it to be offered to him in vain, and refuses to enjoy such a saving good. The treasure, indeed, is opened and placed at every one's door, yea, upon his table, but it is necessary that you also claim it, and confidently view it as the words suggest to you.

(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 and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to help and defend us; 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 The Third Sunday after the Epiphany)

Word of God: St. Matthew 8:1-13 (on back)

Questions to Ponder in Prayer

The Leper is healed

- Following Jesus' Sermon on the Mount(ch. 5-7), the great crowds are amazed at his authoritative teaching(Read Mt 7:28-29). Coming down from the mountain, St. Matthew records the public miracles which Jesus performed(Read Mt 8:17). Jesus taught to create faith and healed out of compassion(Mk 1:41, Lk 4:40). But what do the words and acts(Mt 9:35) reveal about Jesus?
- What does the leper do and say? What does the leper believe about Jesus?
- Does the leper demand physical blessings of Jesus? Can Jesus give physical blessings? To what does the leper entrust his diseased body?
- Jesus touched the leper! Why? Mt 8:17
- How does Jesus heal? Mt 8:3 Is Jesus' word powerful? Effective?
- Jesus sends the leper to the Jerusalem priest to keep the law(Lev 14:1-32). Why? What reason does Jesus give?
- Why does Jesus sternly warn the leper not to speak of this, when it was witnessed by great crowds? How could the leper's witness ruin the "for a proof to them?"
- Did the man keep quiet(Mk 1:45)? What was the unintended result?

The Centurion's Servant is healed (Mt 8:5-13 = Luke 7:1-10 Luke informs us that the centurion "came to Jesus" through his official representative.)

- Does the centurion demand physical blessings of Jesus?
- When Jesus determines to come and heal the man, why did the centurion consider himself so unworthy(v.8,10)? Luke tells us he had donated a synagogue(Lk 7:5)!
- Luke shows us that the man didn't expect Jesus to come in person. What is the centurion's concern? (See Acts 10:28, Eph 2:11-22)
- What analogy does the centurion give for his unusual request in verse 8? (v. 9)
- What does Jesus praise about this gentile centurion? Which verse reveals his A. Knowledge of sin, B. Trust in Jesus' Word. C. Knowledge of Jesus' person
- According to Jesus, what will the kingdom of heaven(church) be like?
- Who are the sons of the kingdom? What happens to unbelieving sons(Jn 8:37-41)? What is described as "outer darkness" and "weeping, gnashing of teeth?"
- "as you have believed" --What did the centurion believe? See question 13A,B,C
- When was the servant healed? (Gen 1:3)

6:30 PM "Learn by Heart"

Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest...

Hymn #78, stanza 3
Life Issues
John 14:23-24

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 8:1-13 (back)

Hymn
"Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure" #78

Catechesis on... (back)
St. Matthew 8:1-13
Liturgy
Catechism

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

Ten Commandments
Lord's Prayer
Apostles' Creed
Psalm 73
Collect of the Day
Prayers based on the text
The Collect for Peace
Benedicamus
Benediction

Catechesis on St. Matthew 8:1-13

¹ When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. ² And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." ³ Then Jesus put out *His* hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴ And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

⁵ Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶ saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." ⁷ And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." ⁸ The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ "For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one*, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does *it*."

¹⁰ When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" ¹¹ "And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² "But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, *so* let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour. (NKJV)

The Object of Faith is the Gospel Message

"For everything that comforts, that offers the favor and grace of God to transgressors of the Law, is, and is properly called, the Gospel, a good and joyful message that God will not punish sins, but **forgive them for Christ's sake**" (FC SD V, 21).

Galatians 3:12, "Yet the law is not of faith...."

Romans 4:5, "But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness." (also Romans 10:14)

Faith is the Trust of the Heart

"Now **he that knows that he has a Father gracious to him through Christ, truly knows God**; he knows also that God cares for him, and calls upon God; in a word, he is not without God, as the heathen. For devils and the ungodly are not able to believe this article: the forgiveness of sins. Hence, they hate God as an enemy, call not upon Him, and expect no good from Him. Augustine also admonishes his readers concerning the word "faith," and teaches that **the term "faith" is accepted in the Scriptures** not for knowledge such as is in the ungodly but **for confidence** which consoles and encourages the terrified mind (Ap XX, 24-26).

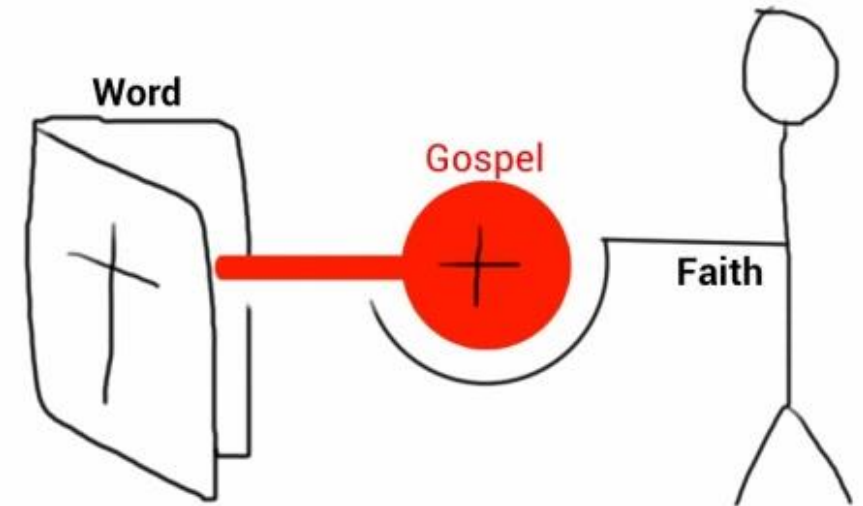
Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

A Fruit of Faith: Trust in God's Word

"And after God through the Holy Ghost in Baptism has kindled and effected a beginning of the true knowledge of God and faith, we should pray Him without ceasing that through the same spirit and His grace, **by means of the daily exercise of reading and practicing God's Word**, He would preserve in us faith and His heavenly gifts, strengthen us from day to day, and keep us to the end. For unless God Himself be our schoolmaster, we can study and learn nothing that is acceptable to Him and salutary to ourselves and others" (FC SD II 16).

1 Corinthians 15:1-2, "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, **if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.**

Catechesis On St. Matthew 8:1-13



Trinity Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Learning Center

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

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)*

Prayers in Preparation for the Communion

Pastor's words during self-communion, after Agnus Dei

When the celebrant, in accordance with good Lutheran precedent, administers the Holy Communion to himself, he may, by way of private preparation, say the following prayers in a low voice:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who said unto your apostles, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you," regard not my sins, but the faith of your church, and grant unto her that peace and unity which is according unto your will; for you live and reigns with God, now and forever. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who according to the will of the Father, and by the cooperation of the Holy Spirit, has by your death given life to the world; deliver me by this your most holy body and blood from all of my iniquities and from every evil, and make me ever to cling to your commandments, and let me never to be separated from you, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Let the partaking of your body, O Lord Jesus Christ, which I, though unworthy, do presume to receive, according to your loving kindness be profitable to me for the receiving of forgiveness of sins, life and salvation, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

I will receive the bread of heaven and call upon the name of the Lord.

Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak the word, and my soul shall be healed. (*adapted from Matt 8:8*)

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for me, preserve my body and soul unto everlasting life. Amen.

(Receive the precious Body of Christ.)

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies. (Ps 116:12-13, Ps 18:1).

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for me, preserve my body and soul unto everlasting life. Amen.

(Receive the precious Blood of Christ.)

The celebrant administers the sacrament to the congregation. If another minister assists in the distribution, the assisting minister administers the chalice.¹

Note: Prayers for communicants are also provided for before and after reception of Holy Communion on Lutheran Worship, page 128.

¹ Taken from "The Conduct of the Service" and "A Companion Volume to The Conduct of the Service"

LIFE ISSUES

God is the Creator of Life

Acts 17:25, “Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.”

God Hates Murder

Genesis 9:6, “Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.”

Proverbs 6:16-19, “These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

Life begins at conception.

Psalms 139:16, “Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.

And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

Jeremiah 1:5, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

Luke 1, Jesus and John in the womb.

The Gift of Children

Genesis 1:28, “Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Psalms 127:3-5a, “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them.”

Support Life

Proverbs 31:8, “Open your mouth for the speechless, In the cause of all who are appointed to die.”

Hebrews 13:16, “But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”

Abortion.--On January 22, 1973, the United States Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision removed the protection of the unborn child in the womb. Since 1973 estimates of the number of performed abortions range from 39 to 52 million.

Contraception, etc.-- True contraception is designed to prevent the conception of a child. However, there are some “contraception” which actually destroys the embryo (abortifacient). The morning after pill is simply high multiple doses of birth control pills taken within 72 hours of intercourse. RU-486(Abortion Pill) is used up to 7 weeks and starves the child by forcing a menstrual cycle.

Suicide is Sin

Deuteronomy 32:39, “Now see that I, *even I, am He*, And *there is no God besides Me*; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor *is there any* who can deliver from My hand.”

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought at a price; there-fore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Euthanasia (called “mercy killing”)

Ecclesiastes 7:17, “Do not be overly wicked, Nor be foolish: Why should you die before your time?”

Proverbs 31:6, “Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to those who are bitter of heart.”

1 Timothy 5:8, “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

Care for the Body

2 Corinthians 7:1, “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

1 John 3:17-18, “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? ¹⁸My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.