

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 "**To God the Anthem Raising**"

Holy Baptism, Part Three
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

"**To God the Anthem Raising**"
(Augustana Service #6, insert)

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 107:31-38, 43

Collect of the Day

Prayers based on the text

The Collect for “After the Gospel”

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 Lord²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD”),²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”²⁵ 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.²⁶ 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.²⁷ 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,²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:²⁹ “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,³² A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.”³³ And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him.³⁴ 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 against³⁵ “(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”³⁶ 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;³⁷ 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.³⁸ And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.³⁹ So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their *own* city, Nazareth.⁴⁰ 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



PERSONAL UNION
True God and True Man

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