

Oct. 29 Trinity 20 / Pentecost 21 / Reformation

We pray that God deliver us from evil by preserving us in the true faith throughout our whole lives until He brings us to heaven with Him. This conclusion of the Lord's Prayer is a fitting theme for the Lutheran Reformation—Come quickly Lord Jesus!

SMALL CATECHISM, III. [THE SEVENTH PETITION] “But deliver us from evil.” “But deliver us from evil.” What does this mean? Answer: We pray in this petition, as in a summary, that our Father in heaven may deliver us from all manner of evil, whether it affect body or soul, property or reputation, and that at last, when the hour of death comes, he may grant us a blessed end and graciously take us from this world of sorrow to himself in heaven.

SMALL CATECHISM, III. [CONCLUSION] “Amen.” What does this mean? Answer: It means that I should be assured that such petitions are acceptable to our heavenly Father and are heard by him, for he himself commanded us to pray like this and promised to hear us. “Amen, amen” means “Yes, yes, it shall be so.”

**Nov. 5 Trinity 21 / Pentecost 22 /
All Saints**

Though we remember the saints as examples of Christian living, we, together with all the saints, worship Christ alone.

AUGSBURG CONFESSION, XXI. [THE CULT OF SAINTS] 1 It is also taught among us that saints should be kept in remembrance so that our faith may be strengthened when we see what grace they received and how they were sustained by faith. Moreover, their good works are to be an example for us, each of us in his own calling...2 However, it cannot be proved from the Scriptures that we are to invoke saints or seek help from them. “For there is one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 2:5), who is the only Savior, the only high priest, advocate, and intercessor before God (Rom. 8:34). He alone has promised to hear our prayers.

Nov. 5 Reformation Sunday (CW)

God's inspired Scripture is meant to offer us the hope and peace of Salvation through Christ alone.

**FORMULA OF CONCORD, SOLID
DECLARATION, XI. [THE WORD IS INSPIRED]**

12 We must oppose such false imagining and thoughts with the following clear, certain, and unfailing foundation: All Scripture, inspired by God, should minister not to security and impenitence but “to reproof, correction, and improvement” (2 Tim. 3:16). Furthermore, everything in the Word of God is written down for us, not for the purpose of thereby driving us to despair but in order that “by steadfastness, by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Rom. 15:4). From this it is beyond all doubt that the true understanding or the right use of the teaching of God's eternal foreknowledge will in no way cause or support either impenitence or despair. So, too, Scripture presents this doctrine in no other way than to direct us thereby to the Word (Eph. 1:13, 14; 1 Cor. 1:21, 30, 31), to admonish us to repent (2 Tim. 3:16), to urge us to godliness (Eph. 1:15ff.; John 15:16, 17, 3, 4, 10, 12), to strengthen our faith and to assure us of our salvation (Eph. 1:9, 13, 14; John 10:27–30; 2 Thess. 2:13–15).

Nov. 12 Third Last Sunday

The fact that Jesus is both true God and true man brings great comfort to believers who can call upon Him in every need, knowing He understands our struggles.

FORMULA OF CONCORD, SOLID DECLARATION, VIII. [THE PERSON OF CHRIST] ¹⁸⁷ Hence we consider it a pernicious error to deprive Christ according to his humanity of this majesty. To do so robs Christians of their highest comfort, afforded them in the cited promises of the presence and indwelling of their head, king, and high priest, who has promised that not only his unveiled deity, which to us poor sinners is like a consuming fire on dry stubble, will be with them, but that he, he, the man who has spoken with them, who has tasted every tribulation in his assumed human nature, and who can therefore sympathize with us as with men and his brethren, he wills to be with us in all our troubles also according to that nature by which he is our brother and we are flesh of his flesh.

Nov. 12 Last Judgment (CW)

On Judgment Day, God will bring believers finally to heaven, but His final punishment will be given out to those who rejected the Gospel.

AUGSBURG CONFESSION, XVII. [THE RETURN OF CHRIST TO JUDGMENT] ¹ It is also taught among us that our Lord Jesus Christ will return on the last day for judgment and will raise up all the dead, ² to give eternal life and everlasting joy to believers and the elect ³ but to condemn ungodly men and the devil to hell and eternal punishment.⁴ Rejected, therefore, are [those] who teach that the devil and condemned men will not suffer eternal pain and torment. ⁵ Rejected, too, are [those] which teach that, before the resurrection of the dead, saints and godly men will possess a worldly kingdom and annihilate all the godless.

Nov. 19 Second Last Sunday

On Judgment Day, God will bring believers finally to heaven, but His final punishment will be given out to those who rejected the Gospel.

AUGSBURG CONFSSION, XVII. [THE RETURN OF CHRIST TO JUDGMENT] 1 It is also taught among us that our Lord Jesus Christ will return on the last day for judgment and will raise up all the dead, 2 to give eternal life and everlasting joy to believers and the elect 3 but to condemn ungodly men and the devil to hell and eternal punishment.4 Rejected, therefore, are [those] who teach that the devil and condemned men will not suffer eternal pain and torment. 5 Rejected, too, are [those] which teach that, before the resurrection of the dead, saints and godly men will possess a worldly kingdom and annihilate all the godless.

Nov. 26 Last Sunday

The Holy Spirit will keep us steadfast in the true faith through His Word and Sacrament, so that we can spend eternity in heaven with our Triune God forever.

SMALL CATECHISM [THIRD ARTICLE EXPLANATION] But the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; just as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives me and all believers all our sins; and at the last day He will raise up me and all the dead, and will grant me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

Nov. 19 Saints Triumphant (CW)

Though we remember the saints as examples of Christian living, we, together with all the saints, worship Christ alone.

AUGSBURG CONFSSION, XXI. [THE CULT OF SAINTS] 1 It is also taught among us that saints should be kept in remembrance so that our faith may be strengthened when we see what grace they received and how they were sustained by faith. Moreover, their good works are to be an example for us, each of us in his own calling...2 However, it cannot be proved from the Scriptures that we are to invoke saints or seek help from them. “For there is one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 2:5), who is the only Savior, the only high priest, advocate, and intercessor before God (Rom. 8:34). He alone has promised to hear our prayers.

Nov. 26 Christ the King (CW)

The fact that Jesus is both true God and true man brings great comfort to believers who can call upon Him in every need, knowing He understands our struggles.

FORMULA OF CONCORD, SOLID DECLARATION, VIII. [THE PERSON OF CHRIST] ²⁸⁷ Hence we consider it a pernicious error to deprive Christ according to his humanity of this majesty. To do so robs Christians of their highest comfort, afforded them in the cited promises of the presence and indwelling of their head, king, and high priest, who has promised that not only his unveiled deity, which to us poor sinners is like a consuming fire on dry stubble, will be with them, but that he, he, the man who has spoken with them, who has tasted every tribulation in his assumed human nature, and who can therefore sympathize with us as with men and his brethren, he wills to be with us in all our troubles also according to that nature by which he is our brother and we are flesh of his flesh.

Dec. 3 Advent 1

As humans, we are powerless to save ourselves. We need our God to join our flesh and liberate us from death.

FORMULA OF CONCORD, SOLID DECLARATION, II. [FREE WILL] ¹¹ Just as little as a person who is physically dead can by his own powers prepare or accommodate himself to regain temporal life, so little can a man who is spiritually dead, in sin, prepare or address himself by his own power to obtain spiritual and heavenly righteousness and life, unless the Son of God has liberated him from the death of sin and made him alive.

Dec. 10 Advent 2

God does not desire the death of sinners, but their salvation. Therefore, He promised and sent Jesus to take our sins away.

FORMULA OF CONCORD, SOLID DECLARATION, II. [FREE WILL] ⁴⁹ It is not God's will that anyone should be damned but that all men should turn themselves to him and be saved forever. "As I live, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live" (Ezek. 33:11). "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes on him should not perish but have eternal life." ⁵⁰ To this end, in his boundless kindness and mercy, God provides for the public proclamation of his divine, eternal law and the wonderful counsel concerning our redemption, namely, the holy and only saving Gospel of his eternal Son, our only Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Dec. 17 Advent 3

Jesus Himself is the "Book of Life," the very Word of God made flesh for our salvation. Today, through His written Word—the Bible—He plants a saving faith in our hearts.

FORMULA OF CONCORD, EPITOME, XI. [GOD'S ETERNAL FOREKNOWLEDGE AND ELECTION] ⁷ ^{6.} The Word of God, however, leads us to Christ, who is "the book of life" in which all who are to be eternally saved are inscribed and elected, as it is written, "He chose us in him before the foundation of the world" (Eph. 1:4). ⁸ ^{7.} This Christ calls all sinners to himself and promises them refreshment. He earnestly desires that all men should come to him and let themselves be helped. To these he offers himself in his Word, and it is his will that they hear the Word and do not stop their ears or despise it. In addition he promises the power and operation of the Holy Spirit and divine assistance for steadfastness and eternal life.

Dec. 24 Advent 4

The Boy born in Bethlehem's barn is truly the "Lord" of all creation who takes the whole world's sins away.

LARGE CATECHISM, II. [THE SECOND ARTICLE] ³¹ Let this be the summary of this article, that the little word "Lord" simply means the same as Redeemer, that is, he who has brought us back from the devil to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and now keeps us safe there. The remaining parts of this article simply serve to clarify and express how and by what means this redemption was accomplished—that is, how much it cost Christ and what he paid and risked in order to win us and bring us under his dominion. That is to say, he became man, conceived and born without sin, of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin, that he might become Lord over sin; moreover, he suffered, died, and was buried that he might make satisfaction for me and pay what I owed, not with silver and gold but with his own precious blood. All this in order to become my Lord. For he did none of these things for himself, nor had he any need of them. Afterward he rose again from the dead, swallowed up and devoured death, and finally ascended into heaven and assumed dominion at the right hand of the Father. The devil and all powers, therefore, must be subject to him and lie beneath his feet until finally, at the last day, he will completely divide and separate us from the wicked world, the devil, death, sin, etc.

Dec. 31 Christmas 1

The Lutheran Confessions are nothing more than the restatement of the clear doctrines of the Bible. Praise God for showing us Jesus through His Word.

Preface to the Book of Concord 2 In these last times of this transitory world almighty God in his immeasurable love, grace, and mercy toward mankind has permitted the pure, unalloyed, and unadulterated light of his holy Gospel and of the Word that alone brings salvation to... Thereupon a short confession was compiled out of the divine, prophetic, and apostolic Scriptures...3 Subsequently many churches and schools committed themselves to this confession as the contemporary symbol of their faith...They have held fast and loyally to the doctrine that is contained in it, that is based solidly on the divine Scriptures, and that is also briefly summarized in the approved ancient symbols, recognizing the doctrine as the ancient consensus which the universal and orthodox church of Christ has believed, fought for against many heresies and errors, and repeatedly affirmed.