

Didache Divine Service

Session 10

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 18, 2023

The Third Article

1. Invocation and Prayer
2. Hymn: LSB 498 "Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Bless"
3. **The Catechism: The Third Article and Its Explanation**

What is the Third Article of the Creed?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength
believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him;
but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel,
enlightened me with His gifts,
sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way 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 all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead,
and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

4. **Bible Reading:**

The Holy Ministry of Love—Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet—John 13:1-20, 31b-36

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. ² And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. ⁵ After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. ⁶ Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." ⁸ Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also *my hands and my head!*" ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." ¹¹ For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

¹² So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ¹⁸ “I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.’ ¹⁹ Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am *He*. ²⁰ Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”

^{31b} Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. ³² If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately. ³³ Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come,’ so now I say to you. ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

³⁶ Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward.”

- The Holy Spirit ministers God’s love to us in Jesus by taking Jesus’ forgiveness and everything that Jesus has done for us and applying it to us.
- On Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday) Jesus began His catechesis on the disciples by washing the disciples’ feet, by so doing He is sanctifying them and preparing them for their future ministry of love as His apostles.
- The Lord’s Word and Sacraments are how He, by the Holy Spirit, ministers His love and forgiveness to us.
- This washing takes in both the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Absolution:
 - In Holy Baptism we are “bathed” and declared completely clean.
 - Yet we need the ongoing word of forgiveness from our Lord to comfort our consciences and sustain our faith and life in Christ.
 - “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me” means “If I do not forgive you, you have no part with me.”
 - “As I have washed your feet, you also out to wash one another’s feet...” means “If I have forgiven you, you also ought to forgive one another.”
- Impenitence and unbelief, like that of Judas’ Iscariot, rejects the Lord’s forgiveness.
- “A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you...” means, “...that you forgive one another as I have forgiven you!”
- Applying Jesus forgiveness to broken and contrite hearts through the Lord’s preaching, absolution, and the Sacraments is at the heart of the Holy Spirit’s work.

5. Hymn: 768 “To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray”
6. Holy Communion Liturgy
7. Hymn to Depart: 887 “Now the Light Has Gone Away”