Catechism Story 24 *The First and Second Articles of the Creed*
Memory Verse and Catechism Prayers from Congregation at Prayer

BIBLE STORY: AFTER THE FLOOD
Genesis 8:1-22; 9:1-17

Central Thoughts

- The creation was recreated through the Flood that life might again flourish.
- The rainbow is a sign of God's grace to His creation; He will never again destroy the earth with a flood; the four seasons will continue as long as the earth remains.
- God has given meat to man and animals for food.
- God has instituted capital punishment for murder.

Discussion Questions

What does it mean, "God remembered Noah"?
It means that He acted in love for Noah on the basis of His promise to save him through the Flood.
What did Noah send out of the ark?
A raven
What color is a raven?
Black
What does he symbolize?
Death
What did the dove bring to Noah?
An olive branch
What does the fresh olive branch signify?
Peace and rest through the forgiveness of sins
In what prominent place in Scripture do we again see the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove?
At the Baptism of Jesus
How are Jesus' Baptism and the Flood connected?
Water became the instrument of both salvation and condemnation. Through the Flood Noah and His family were saved through water and the unbelieving world was condemned. Through the water of Baptism the sin and punishment that we deserved for our sin was laid upon Jesus and the forgiveness and righteousness of Jesus' death and resurrection is given to us for our salvation.
Who descends upon us in our Baptism?
The Holy Spirit for the gift of faith and peace with God through Jesus Christ
What did God tell Noah when he left the ark?
Be fruitful and multiply
What does this mean?
God recreated the world through the Flood for the sake of the preservation and continuance of life that was first given at creation.
What did Noah do with the clean animals?
Offered burnt offerings on the altar for the forgiveness of sins
Why did Noah offer these animals and what does it teach us?
These offerings teach us that sin is still a part of the world and that sinful man needs to have atonement made for our sins.
How did the Lord receive the sacrifice?
It was a "soothing aroma" because it was offered in faith in God's promise of salvation in the coming Redeemer.
What did God promise?
He promised to preserve life. He would never again curse the ground for man's sake; and He would never again destroy every living thing as He had done in the Flood.
What words show us that the corruption of sin remains, even though sin is forgiven?
"The imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth"

How did God bless Noah and the creation?

He blessed Him with the promise of life—"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth"—just as He had done at creation. The four seasons would continue as long as the earth remained: seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, day and night shall not cease.

What did He give man and the animals to eat that He hadn't given them to eat before?

Meat. Animals could now be eaten for food.

What is in the blood of living creatures?

Life (see Leviticus 17:11)

How does God speak of the sanctity of human life?

Man's life is sacred because God created human life in His image. Capital Punishment was instituted by God as punishment for murder.

How does Jesus offer His life for the sins of the world?

He offers His life for us and sheds His blood for our forgiveness upon the cross.

What did God establish with Noah, his descendants, and every living creature after him?

A covenant or promise that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood.

What is the sign of this promise of love and life?

The rainbow. Every time we see the rainbow we are reminded of God's promise.

Meditation on the Bible Story

God stopped the waters of the Flood and brought the ark to rest upon Mount Ararat because He remembered the promise of salvation He had made to Noah. Noah sent a raven and a dove out of the ark. The raven is black and symbolizes death and darkness. The raven did not return because God had brought life and light out of the Flood. The dove is white and symbolizes the Holy Spirit and the purity of sins forgiven. The dove returned after seven days to give to Noah the freshly plucked olive branch, the sign of true rest and peace. We see the dove again at the Baptism of our Lord when the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove. Peace with God has been won only by our Lord Jesus Christ who took our place under the condemnation of the Law by shedding His blood for us. Noah's sacrifice to the Lord points to the shedding of Jesus' blood upon the cross. Life from God is in the blood. When Jesus sheds His blood upon the cross, He is giving His life for our life. Water receives its power to forgive sin—and thus give life—from the blood of Christ shed upon the cross. Jesus' offering is a "sweet-smelling aroma" to the Lord. In Holy Baptism, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon us so that the forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil, and eternal salvation might be ours for Jesus' sake. Baptism into Christ for the forgiveness of sins means new life. The old things have passed away and all things have become new (2 Cor. 5:17). As a sign and promise of this new creation, the Lord blessed Noah and told him to "be fruitful and multiply." Although sin is forgiven, yet the corruption of sin remains as a constant reminder of our need for the new life that God alone provides through Christ (see 8:21). All human life is sacred because man is made in the image of the God who became man—flesh and blood—for us. By giving man meat to eat, the Lord teaches us that we need the life and salvation that only comes to us through the flesh and blood of His Son, offered up on the cross and distributed to us in the Lord's Supper.

Prayer on the Bible Story

Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You for the promise of the rainbow that You will never again destroy the earth with a flood, and that while the earth remains You will bless us with the gift of life and the promise of the four seasons. Teach us through the message of the Flood to live in daily contrition and repentance, so that the Old Adam in us drowns and dies with all sins and evil desires, and the new man comes forth and arises to live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



After the Flood

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