

Name: _____

Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church Confirmation

Jesus Christ

After completing the lesson, the student will be able to:

- Define the meaning of Christ being a prophet, priest, and king.
- Explain the purpose of Redemption
- The Ascension
- Explain Jesus sitting at the right hand of God the Father.
- Show how trusting in Christ leads to salvation.

SECOND ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Use your catechism to fill in the blanks of the excerpt from the Second Article of the Apostles Creed below. Please use the exact words used in the catechism.

Second Article of Redemption

What does this mean?

REDEMPTION

When we think about Christianity, the focus or central teaching is the death of Jesus. But it begs the question... why? Do you remember how we emphasized the fact that Jesus was both fully God and fully man? When we talk about Christ dying, we are talking about God dying. We know this is the critical point of the Christian faith for a couple reasons.

- First, all four Gospels climax at Jesus' death.
- Second, the testimony of the Apostles all agrees. Peter preached about Christ's crucifixion in his first sermon on Pentecost (Acts 2) and Paul writes to the Corinthians "*I determined to know*

nothing among you except Christ and him crucified (1 Cor. 2:2),” and “I delivered to you as of first importance: that Christ died in accordance with the scriptures”. (1 Cor. 15:3-4)

We are all sinners, hopelessly lost, condemned by God for our sin. The Law of God demands perfection, which means even the “smallest” of things we do wrong condemn us. Christ’s death, and the blood He shed on our behalf, is what redeems us. The word “redeem” means “to buy back” and that is what Christ accomplished when He died. He bought us back from our slavery to sin. This little phrase “*was crucified, dead and buried*” is the Gospel! While you sin and rebel against God, Jesus died and forgave your sin. He Redeemed you!

THE OFFICES OF CHRIST

Christ fulfills three offices:

- The first is that of Prophet: Jesus didn’t just speak the Word of God... he IS the Word of God! And the word he spoke forth was that of life and forgiveness through His own death on the cross.
- The third (yes... this is out of order) is that of King.
- And the second office is that of Priest.

The Old Testament Priests stood in front of God for the sake of the people and offered sacrifices to atone for their sins. Instead of paying for their own sin, the priest would make the sacrifices for them, and God promised to work through the priest to forgive their sin.

As Priest, what Jesus is really accomplishing for you is Redemption. So how does that work? Allow me to illustrate: One of my most fashionable t-shirts came to me by way of ‘redemption’. By cutting out several box tops from my favorite cereal, Captain Crunch, and mailing them all in, I was able to receive a Captain Crunch t-shirt in exchange. Basically what I did was ‘redeem’ them--the company offered to buy back my box tops by exchanging them for something of value (my new Captain Crunch t-shirt).

In a theological sense, redemption works much in the same way. It means to buy back and set free; or to pay a ransom and gain something of value. In the New Testament it referred to the buying back of a slave to free him/her, or to buy back from captivity to set free or release.

1. Read Isaiah 44:22 and Titus 2:14, what is the purpose of redemption according to the following Bible passages?
2. According to John 3:16, how did God make provision for our salvation or redemption?
3. According to John 8:34 and Ephesians 2:3, what are we slaves to?

Given this information, how does this apply to the Second Article of the Creed and Jesus? Simply stated, because of our sin, we had shut ourselves out of God's house—our sin closed the door of access into heaven and fellowship with God our Father. We had to be 'redeemed'—we were bought back in order that our relationship with God could be made right again. That is what Jesus did on our behalf—He bought us back through His life, death, and resurrection. He redeemed us from the grip of death and brought to us the gift of life.

4. According to 1 Peter 1:18-19, with what means (how) has Christ redeemed us?
5. According to John 1:29 and 1 Timothy 2:6, did Jesus redeem all of mankind when He died and was resurrected?
6. According to John 3:18, who is saved and who is condemned?

THE RESURRECTION

The Resurrection validates our faith in Jesus. If Jesus never really rose from the dead, then Christianity is a lie, and we should believe something else. But if Jesus *did* come back from the dead, then we are not crazy or nutty for believing in Him. As Christians, we don't believe in a fairy tale or legend. Instead, we claim that it is a historical fact that Jesus lived, died, and rose from the dead.

7. Read 1 Corinthians 15:17. What does this passage say about our faith, if Jesus didn't rise from the dead?

THE ASCENSION

Acts chapter 1 describes Jesus ascending into heaven. What does that mean? It says Jesus literally flew up into the air and the clouds hid him from the disciples' sight. Amazing!

8. Read Acts 1:6-11 and answer the following questions, what will they receive when the Holy Spirit comes upon them?
9. According to John 14:1-3, what reasons does Jesus give for why He ascended into heaven?

THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

Some Christians would use the phrase “seated at the right hand of God” to describe the exact, physical location of Jesus. However, as Lutherans we would say that scripture teaches that Jesus is not only physically sitting at God’s right hand. Instead, Jesus is present in many different places. Here are a couple of examples from God’s Word:

- **Matthew 26** - Jesus teaches us that when we eat the bread and drink the cup in the Lord’s Supper, that He is physically present in the bread and wine. That means when you take the Lord’s Supper, Jesus is right there! He is forgiving your sin and strengthening your faith.
- **Galatians 2:20** - Paul says, *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;”* Now, Paul is not the only one who can say *“Christ lives in me.”* All Christians can say that! That means Christ lives in you... and in me... and in the Christians in Minnesota, Mexico, Africa, China, and everywhere around the world at the exact same time.

So, if the phrase *“seated at the right hand of God”* is not teaching that Jesus is only ever located in one place, what does it mean? It teaches us that Jesus is in a place of power and authority. When Jesus ascended into heaven, He took up His rightful place of authority and power as God rightly should. Notice too, He is “seated”, which means He is confident and isn’t worried that His authority or power would be taken away.

10. Describe what it means when we say Jesus is “seated at the right hand of God.”

THE RETURN OF CHRIST

Jesus didn’t just come with a final Word of the Lord (as Prophet), or stand between God and the people to pay for sin (as Priest), but He also rules and reigns at the right hand of God, with all power and authority (as King). Jesus is in charge! In a world full of turmoil, difficulty, sin, sickness, and death, we have a King who not only suffered and died for you and me, but we have a King who will be coming back again to make all things right again!

11. In your catechism, read question #196 (pg. 83), and write down when it says Jesus will come to earth again in a visible manner?

As king, Jesus will Judge everyone: Those who are still alive and also every single person who had ever lived, but had since died. This includes people like Adam and Eve, Moses, King David, Abraham, Esther, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Donald Trump, your great-great-grandpa, your parents, and you.

12. Read page 83 from the catechism #197 what the standard or rule that Jesus will use to Judge everyone?

Remember that according to God's Word, perfection is necessary. How do you think you would measure up to God's standard? Every thought, every word, and every action will be weighed, as well as every motivation for your actions. And not only those things you have done... but also what you have left undone!

While many people seem to think that God is unfair to expect perfection, it is a normal idea. What if I told you that I was 99.5% faithful to my wife. 364 days a year I am totally faithful to her, and I only sleep with other women one day a year. Is that, ok? NO! Faithfulness to my wife is an all or nothing concept. I either am faithful to her for my whole life, or I am not. In the same way, any sin we commit breaks our relationship with God, and so must be judged and punished accordingly.

But the fact that you will never be able to measure up to God's standard is precisely why Jesus came to die on the Cross. Because Jesus lived a perfect life, and His perfect life is credited to you through faith, you will not be seen as a worthless, miserable sinner when you are judged. Instead, you will be seen as perfect, blameless, and holy. Instead of trusting in our own ability to be a good person, and trying our best to love and obey God, we trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin!

13. Will God overlook our sin if we aren't as bad as most people, or if we try hard?

14. For those trusting in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sin, how will you be seen on Judgement Day?

STUDENT & PARENT QUESTION: *for the student and a parent to discuss and answer together*
Parent(s), take a few minutes to share with your child how you came to trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. The student should record one or two parts of the testimony that stuck out to them as important or interesting.

STUDENT & PARENT SIGNATURE:

By signing below, we affirm (1) this lesson is complete and that (2) we completed the "Student & Parent Questions" section together.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____