

Name: _____

Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church Confirmation

The Person and The Work of The Holy Spirit

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

- Identify and describe who the Holy Spirit is
- Explain why the Holy Spirit is a 'person', and not an 'it' or a 'thing'.
- Identify where the Holy Spirit resides.
- Describe how we have been justified
- Identify the means that the Holy Spirit uses to sanctify us.
- Define justification, sanctification, redemption, repentance, and assurance

THIRD ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Use your catechism write the Third Article of the Apostles Creed below. Please use the exact words used in the catechism.

Third Article of Sanctification

What Does This Mean?

THE HOLY SPIRIT

In this lesson, we turn our attention to the Third article of the Creed and the Holy Spirit. If you remember from our study of the Second Article of the Creed, we studied the “person” of Christ (that is He is the Son of God, fully God and fully human), and studied the “work” of Christ- He Redeemed us. In a similar manner, we will begin our study of the Holy Spirit by looking at the “person”, who He is, and then the work He does.

We know about the Holy Spirit because God’s Word tells us so. Some Christians may talk about how they “feel” the Holy Spirit, or “sense” the Holy Spirit, but it’s best not rely on our feelings or what we sense to learn about who the Holy Spirit is and what the Holy Spirit does. Instead, let’s learn about the Holy Spirit by studying what God has revealed about Him in the Bible.

1. When Jesus tells His disciples to go and make disciples, He includes baptism in that instruction. Read Matthew 28:18-20 and write down the three persons that we are baptized into the name of.
2. In the 10 Commandments, the First Commandment shows us that we are to worship no one else, or nothing else, other than God Himself. Read John 4:24 and write down how this passage describes the God we are to worship.
3. In Acts 5, we see an account of a husband and wife who lie about the amount of money they gave to the church. Read Acts 5:3-4 and write down who it was that Peter said Ananias lied to:
 - Acts 5:3 - “why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the _____”
 - Acts 5:4 - “You have not lied to men but to _____”
4. Read John 14:16-17 and take note of how this passage refers to the Holy Spirit (or “Spirit of truth”) as “Him” instead of as “it”. Why do think that is important?

THE PERSON

God's Word uses several names for the Third Person of the Trinity. Regardless of what name we use to talk about Him, it is important for us to understand that the Holy Spirit is fully and truly God, along with both God the Father and God the Son.

5. Read the following passages and write down the name each uses for the Third Person of the Trinity.

- Genesis 1:2;
- Isaiah 63:14;
- John 14:26;

HIS RESIDENCE

The Holy Spirit lives inside of each person who has faith in Jesus. This should give us great confidence! This promise means that we don't have to try and figure out if we have the Holy Spirit, or if we don't have the Holy Spirit. We don't look to what we "feel" ... we look to what we "know." As we are trusting in Jesus, we can KNOW that God's Spirit really is with us. God Himself is with you through all your temptations, struggles, doubts, and fears. Take comfort in God's presence!

6. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and write down where the Holy Spirit resides

7. Read Romans 8:9, Does every Christian have the Holy Spirit in his/her life? If someone doesn't have the Holy Spirit, can they be a Christian?

8. The book of Acts records when the disciples of Jesus first received the Holy Spirit. Read Acts 2:1-4, What were the audible sounds that were heard when the Spirit of God filled the disciples? What was the visible signs that appeared when the Spirit of God filled the disciples?

HIS WORK: JUSTIFICATION

One word you will often hear in relation to the Holy Spirit's work is **Justification**. Justification is God's declaration that you are righteous for Christ's sake. God can justify sinful people because He paid the

ultimate price for their sin when Jesus died on the cross. When you are justified, you are acquitted of your guilt, forgiven of your sins, and thereby made righteous in the eyes of God. No longer does God look toward you as an unworthy sinner, but as if you had never sinned. Without Jesus' death and resurrection no one could be justified.

Unfortunately, many people today deny Christ and refuse the justification won through Christ's death on the cross. Instead, they try to "justify themselves" before God. Justifying themselves means trying to explain and minimize their sin. Maybe you have said or heard someone say... "I try my best to be a good person." or "I'm better than my friends." or "It's not like I've ever killed anybody." or "It is just a little sin." Statements such as these are examples of people trying to justify their sin. However, it is important to understand that all attempts to justify ourselves will fall short.

Justification is unique because it was accomplished in an instant and it was fully complete. There is no process to become justified, or any steps you need to take. You are either justified through Christ or you're not. There is no middle ground. The very moment a broken and repentant sinner believes in the promise of grace through Christ's death on the cross they are instantly, 100%, and fully justified.

9. Read Romans 3:23-24 and Romans 5:9, the following passages and write down what each teaches us about justification?

HIS WORK: SANCTIFICATION

Where justification is instantaneous and complete, **sanctification** is an ongoing process that the Holy Spirit works in the life of a believer.

10. Read John 17:17 and 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5. What do each of these verses teach us about sanctification?

HIS WORK: APPLIED REDEMPTION

It is also His work of the Holy Spirit to reveal and apply **Redemption** to us. As we learned about in the Second Article of the Apostle's Creed, Jesus Christ provided our redemption, which means "**to buy back, or to ransom, to release from captivity, to deliver, or to acquit.**" While it is true that Jesus redeemed us through His death and resurrection, the benefits of redemption must be applied individually to us for our personal salvation. To be saved, we must have a true and personal faith in Jesus Christ. This faith is not something we create, but rather is the divine work and gift of the Holy Spirit.

11. Read Romans 8:7-9, and then answer the following questions:

- Before we are redeemed (v.7-8 calls this in our “carnal mind” or “in the flesh”), what is our attitude toward or relationship with God like?

- Verse 9 says we are “not in the flesh”. What made that change happen?

12. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. In addition to grace and salvation, what is listed as a gift from God?

HIS WORK: REPENTANCE

Another aspect of the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives is **Repentance**. Repentance has two parts: the first is contrition (or terror) which strikes our conscience when we know we have sinned; and the second part is faith, which comes when we hear the Gospel, and we believe our sins are forgiven in Jesus. We don’t make ourselves repent, and we aren’t the ones who decide to repent, but it is the Holy Spirit who convicts us of our sin, and turns us to our Savior, Jesus Christ. Not only does the Holy Spirit bring us to Repentance when we are first saved, but He continues to bring us to repent daily. In another part of the Small Catechism, Martin Luther says:

“the old Adam in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and die with all sins and evil lusts, and, in turn, a new person daily come forth and rise from death again.”

13. Read Luke 5:32, Romans 2:4 and 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 and summarize what each teaches us about repentance.

HIS WORK: THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

The assurance of salvation is simply a personal confidence and sure hope that Jesus has truly saved you from your sins and made you, His child. The Holy Spirit is the one who seals us with the promise of the Gospel, and guarantees that, when God promised that your sins are forgiven, it is true!

14. Read Ephesians 1:13-14 and Ephesians 2:8-10 and then provide a short summary of what each passage says about faith and salvation:

STUDENT & PARENT QUESTIONS: *for the student and a parent to discuss and answer together*

1. Read Catechism questions number 199 and 200 (found on page 84-85 of your Catechism). Write down all the things that these questions teach us about the Holy Spirit: both what He does, and who He is.
2. Baptism is a gift that Jesus gave us in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Students, ask your parents if you have been baptized or not. If you have been baptized, when was it, and at which church? If you haven't been baptized, discuss with them why you haven't?

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: