



The Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther

The Creed, the Second Chief Part: The Gospel

Explanation of the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary; and **that He is my Lord**, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

The 40th Psalm is a beautiful psalm of prayer in which Christ Himself laments His sufferings and calls for rescue from death. It clearly prophesies that **He alone does God's will and fulfills the Law**, and that **this is written about Him in the book of Moses**. Christ dissolves and abolishes **the old law of sacrifices and its holiness by which God's will was not fulfilled**. God alone does everything for us; nothing is done by our work or sacrifices. He therefore promises and establishes the New Testament in which the justification of the believers will be preached in the great congregation, that is, in the entire world, and not the justification by sacrifices or our works. For works and sacrifices only make arrogant and false saints whose hope is not in God or His grace, but in their lies and false holiness – **Martin Luther, Reading the Psalms with Luther (Kindle), Summary of Psalm 40.**

FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE - MATTHEW 21:12-16

"Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and over turned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, 'It is written, "*My house shall be called a house of prayer,*" but you have made it a "*den of thieves.*"' Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and scribes saw **the wonderful things that He did**, and the

children crying out in the temple and saying, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' they were indignant and said to Him, 'Do You hear what they are saying?' And Jesus said to them, 'Yes, have you never read, "*Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?*"'



A VERSE TO REMEMBER

"It is finished!"
John 19:30

Jesus, the Messiah, enters the temple on Palm Sunday

James Tissot, watercolor - 1894