



# 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 **prince of this world is judged** and deprived of his supremacy. Another and mightier Lord is now in power, even Christ, who **vanquished and chained the prince of this world.** Be therefore not disturbed nor frightened if this dethroned potentate and god of the world scowls, and gnashes his teeth, and champs at the bit, and threatens like a fiend; he is as impotent in his rage as a dog that furiously barks and dashes his chains to the right and to the left, eagerly intent to sink his teeth into the limbs of the passer-by ... Just so the devil barks and rages against the Christians, but he is chained and cannot injure them if they have faith in Christ and are constant in prayer. – **Martin Luther, Sermon on John 16:5-15, Sermons on the Gospels, volume 2, pp. 104-5.**

#### **FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE - JOHN 19:28-37**

“After this, Jesus, **knowing that all things were now accomplished,** that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, ‘I thirst!’ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘**It is finished!**’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, ‘*Not one of His bones shall be broken.*’ And again another Scripture says, ‘*They shall look on Him whom they pierced.*’”



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#### **A VERSE TO REMEMBER**

“It is finished!” – **St. John 19:30**

**Jesus said, “I thirst.”**

*James Tissot, opaque watercolor - 1894*