



The Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther
The Second Chief Part: The Gospel
The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

Let this be the summary of this [2nd] article, that the little word 'Lord' simply means the same as Redeemer, that is, he who brought us back from the devil to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and keeps us there. The remaining parts of this article simply serve to clarify and express how and by what means this redemption was accomplished ... The proper place to explain all these different points is not in the brief children's sermon, but rather the longer sermons throughout the whole year, especially at the times appointed for dealing at length with such articles as Christ's birth, passion, resurrection, ascension, etc. Indeed, the entire gospel that we preach depends on the proper understanding of this article. Upon it all our salvation and blessedness are based, and it is so rich and broad that we can never learn it fully. – **Martin Luther, Large Catechism, II, 31-33.**

FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:9-15

"It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and **the Spirit descending** upon Him like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, '**You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**' Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him. Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and **believe in the gospel.**'"

A VERSE TO REMEMBER

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. – **St. John 1:1-3**

John baptizes Jesus the Christ at the Jordan
Pieter de Grebber, oil on canvas - 1625

