



The Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther
The Creed, the Second Chief Part: The Gospel
Explanation of the Third Article

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; just as He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives me and all believers all our sins; and at the last day He will raise up me and all the dead, and will grant me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

Even where we experience Christian, brotherly fellowship, 'heart and heart together united,'

there too the communion of saints remains an article of faith, for this communion, the *koinonia* of which the New Testament speaks, is a work of the Holy Spirit. It not only binds the believers together, but it also unites us "with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:3) The mystery of this communion reaches into the communion within the Holy Trinity. "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one, I in them and You in Me, that they may become perfectly one." (John 17:22-23) – Herman Sasse, "On the doctrine of the Holy Spirit" from *We Confess the Church*, Concordia Publishing House, 1986, p. 53.

FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE - JOHN 16:23-30

"Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. These things I have spoken to you in figurative language, but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father." His disciples said to Him, 'See,



now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God."

A VERSE TO REMEMBER

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" – Ephesians 4:4-6

The Supper of the Lord
 James Tissot - 1894