



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.**

People are also warned that the term faith does not mean simply a knowledge of a history, such as the ungodly and devil have [James 2:19]. **Rather, it means a faith that believes, not merely the history, but also the effect of the history. In other words, it believes this article: the forgiveness of sins.** We have grace, righteousness, and forgiveness of sins through Christ. The person who knows that he has a Father who is gracious to him through Christ truly knows God [John 14:7]. He also knows that God cares for him [1 Peter 5:7], and he calls upon God [Romans 10:13]. In a word, he is not without God as are the heathen. **For devils and the ungodly are not able to believe this article: the forgiveness of sins.** – Augsburg Confession, Article XX, paragraphs 23-25.

FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE – MATTHEW 9:1-8



“So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘**Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.**’ And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, ‘This Man blasphemes!’ But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, ‘Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, “Your sins are forgiven you,” or to say, “Arise and walk?” But **that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins**’ – then He said to the paralytic, ‘Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’ And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, **they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.**”

A VERSE TO REMEMBER

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” – **Colossians 1:13-14**

The paralytic is brought to Jesus by friends
James Tissot, opaque watercolor - 1894