

Rejoice, Pray, and Give Thanks - in, to, and through Our Triune God

It's easy to be _____ with the news right now.

Watching the news lately, has left me feeling _____.

Part I: I believe in God the Father

The reason God created the world is because of His eternal plan:

I will be their _____ and they will be My _____, and I will _____ together with them _____.

In love-driven obsession, God _____ for me with everything He had.

Part II: I believe in God the Son

The reason God redeemed the world through Jesus is because of His eternal plan:

I will be their _____ and they will be My _____, and I will _____ together with them _____.

The prize Jesus won when He fought for me is an _____ that can and will _____ me in every affliction.

Part III: I believe in God the Holy Spirit

The reason God gathers the Church through the Spirit is because of His eternal plan:

I will be their _____ and they will be My _____, and I will _____ together with them _____.

I have been _____ and _____ by God to make a _____ in this world.

Opening Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Read through the three articles of the Apostle's Creed and Dr. Luther's explanations.

As a group discuss the following four questions after each article:

1. How does the work of God the (Father, Son, or Holy Spirit) enable me to rejoice always?
2. What does it lead me to pray for?
3. How does it set me free to give thanks in every situation?
4. In what other ways has it prepared me for this particular chapter of my life?

The First Article of the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed

I believe 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 will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He 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.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way 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 fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Closing Prayer

Close with a prayer for the spiritual needs of your families, your spiritual family, and people everywhere.