

# What Is Our Response to Jesus?

Services: Wednesday, 12/20 at 11 AM & 7 PM

Church Year: Third Wednesday in Advent – 2017

**During Advent: Wednesday Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6**

**Introduction**: Dear friends in Christ: In the *NEW version* of Luther's Small Catechism, we focus today on the Apostles' Creed, the second article, part 3:

- **Part 1** addressed *who He is!*
- **Part 2** addressed *what He did!*
- **Part 3** addresses *our response!*

Going to page 188, we are focusing on this part of the explanation: "...that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true...."

## *The Central Thought*

"What do people live for today? ...As Christians, we confess that 'our salvation and all our happiness rests' on Jesus, our Lord (LC II 33). He set us free to live under His care and serve Him and others (188)." In other words, *knowing Jesus* is the *foundation* of our happiness, we are no longer living under the shadow of death and hell; instead, we have received the gift of eternal life, *so we desire to serve Jesus and others!*

Today's section includes 10 questions: 176-185

## *A Closer Reading of the Small Catechism*

176. **For what purpose has Christ freed us from sin, death, and the devil?** ...so that we might live with Him and for Him in peace and joy, now and forever. // Think about this: Our sins have made us deserving of **death and torment**, *but God has gifted us with **life and paradise** through Jesus*; therefore, we have peace, joy, a desire to live for Jesus! [2 Corinthians 5:15](#)
177. **What does it mean to confess that I belong to Christ?** ...We are united with Him by faith so that He is ours and we are His. // He is the Head and we are the members of His body, *which is the Church*. Therefore, we are in relationship with Him and have the benefits of His work! [Galatians 2:20](#)
178. **What does it mean to confess that I live under Him in His kingdom?**
- a. ...Jesus graciously rules to defend us, protect us, and give us rest.
    - i. Defend: “...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate [*defender*] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1 ESV).
    - ii. Protect: Based on [1 John 5:18](#), TLSB says: “If we abide in His Word, Jesus remains in us and guards us from the evil one, so that the devil cannot touch us.”
    - iii. Give us rest: For all who are trying to work their way to heaven, Jesus said, “Come to me... and I will give you rest” (Mt. 11:28 ESV).
  - b. ...Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to be with us, to teach us, and to sanctify us.

- i. With: “...your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you” (1 Cor. 6:19 NAS).
- ii. Teach: Regarding the Spirit, Jesus told His disciples that “he will teach you all things” (Jn. 14:26 ESV).
- iii. Sanctify: The Spirit makes us holy by
  - ▶ clothing us with Christ in baptism and
  - ▶ empowering us to follow the Bible.

179. **What does it mean that we will “serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness”?** We serve Jesus now... Yet, we also look forward to... serving Him with complete devotion in peace and joy forever. // Right now we still have the old nature, *which keeps trying to pull us into sin*, but in eternity we will serve without sin!
180. **What is the basis for my confession and confidence that I will live forever in His kingdom?** The resurrection of Christ... // As Christians we believe what seems impossible, and yet we are sure *because Jesus has done the impossible by rising from the dead!*
181. **Is there evidence for the resurrection of Jesus?** It ...is well attested by numerous eyewitnesses. // The apostles, other named disciples, and even a crowd of 500 believers all personally saw the risen Jesus!

### **Connections and Applications**

182. **What does it mean that our Lord Jesus is called the Christ?** In the OT, God set certain people apart as prophets, priests, and kings by anointing them with oil. The title Christ or Messiah means “Anointed One.” In the NT, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our Prophet, Priest, and King.

183. **What does it mean for us to speak of Jesus as our Prophet?** Jesus proclaims the Word of God to us. // And what should we do with that Word? Regarding Jesus and His proclamation, *God the Father said from heaven*, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (Matt. 17:5 ESV).
184. **What does it mean for us to speak of Jesus as our Priest?** ...Jesus offered Himself as the sacrifice for our sin, and He intercedes with the Father on our behalf. // The Bible says that “Christ... died for sins once for all, *the just for the unjust*” (1 Pet. 3:18 NAS); also, that He “is at the right hand of God... interceding for us” (Rom. 8:34 ESV).
185. **What does it mean for us to speak of Jesus as our King?** ...Jesus rules over all creation, especially for the good of His Church. // The Bible says that Jesus is “the ruler of kings on earth” (Rev. 1:5 ESV), over all kings and everyone under those kings; furthermore, He is “head over all things to the church” (Eph. 1:22 ESV), thus the Head over all who trust in Him, the Christ of Christmas!

**Conclusion:** Let us pray: King of glory, by Your mercy and compassion, You gave Yourself over to death on the cross to obtain everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness for us and all believers. By Your Spirit, keep us firm in this faith that we might always live under You in Your kingdom and serve You in joy and peace, even as You have been raised from the dead and live and reign to all eternity. Amen (page 194).