

The Apostles' Creed

Second Article

TEACHER GUIDE


Luther House
Confirmation
Curriculum

 Luther House
of Study

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

Essential Question: Who is Jesus Christ, and what does He do?

Students will be able to:

- Recognize that Jesus is fully God and fully Man, and that He came under the powers that hold this world captive
- Examine what Jesus Christ has done, and how He saves sinners and delivers freedom
- Know and believe that Jesus is Lord
- State how Jesus Christ “loses”, and yet also how our Lord defeats sin, death, and the power of the devil
- Memorize Luther’s Explanation of the 2nd Article of the Apostles’ Creed
- Distinguish between Jesus Christ as Example and Jesus Christ as Gift
- Articulate how Jesus ultimately judges those who are given His Word
- Describe where Christ is NOW, and what the right hand of God is up to today
- Confess not only that Jesus Christ saves sinners and brings them to Himself in his kingdom, but that He has done this for me

Lesson Overview: The first article of the Creed confessed who God the Father is. Now, in the second article, we confess who the Son, Jesus Christ, is. We’ll explore what He has done, and what our Lord Jesus continues to do. Jesus is quite radical, and He comes to earth to do a most surprising thing to those who sin against and betray Him. Jesus is the Word made flesh that delivers you from all your enemies. This is spectacular and shocking news to hear. There is a lot to get to, so let’s go!

1. Opening Prayer



Lord Jesus, you don’t leave us where we are. You come raging in to save us from our unbelief and our worst enemies. You did not do this with silver or gold or anything we typically value in this world. Turn us to you, and the shocking power of Your Word that redeems us! Bring us into your kingdom, just as you’ve promised to do, to live under your gracious rule forever. Amen.

2. Essential Vocabulary



 **For Teachers: Words matter! Here are a few that you will see in this lesson.**

Sin: unbelief in the truth of God's Word; the symptoms of this you've learned about before in the 10 Commandments lessons. They include, but are not limited to: greed, covetousness, anger, failing to respect others, doubt, despair, ingratitude, lust...

Redeem: save; make right what was wrong; rescue

Holy: being who you were created to be; completing the purposes of what you were made to do. Example: A door is "holy" when it opens, closes, and swings properly on hinges. PEOPLE are made "holy" when they hear God's Word. *Holiness is not something you do. It is what God does. Holiness is produced when God's Word is given to you.

Right Hand of the Father: where Jesus Christ is; the most powerful, authoritative, effective, active thing that has been revealed to us

Righteousness: the quality of being right or justified. There are two kinds.

"Active" Righteousness: knowing the rules and following them; you are the actor

"Passive" Righteousness: receiving the righteousness as a gift of God; this is the only way you're made right with God; you are the receiver and God is the actor

Crucifixion: the execution of a person by nailing or binding them to a cross/tree; Jesus was put to death in this humiliating, offensive way

Resurrection: being raised from death; the Father raised Jesus from death and hell; You are united to Christ's death (oof, but his death does have a trap door) AND HIS RESURRECTION (let's go!) (more on how the Holy Spirit gives you faith in this promise in our next session.)

3. Video Lesson: Apostles' Creed Third Article




This video will set a good foundation of what we confess in the Second Article of the Creed.

There will be several "knowledge check" questions after the teacher and students view the video.

- **True/False:** God has the power to determine our future.
- The future God has in store for us is to:
 - **Live life to the fullest**
 - Be worried about death and our sins
 - Make sure we go to church every week
- God has the power He does because:
 - God enjoys controlling us so that we follow His rules
 - The Apostles decided God should have ultimate power
 - **He became one of us (human); therefore, He understood temptations of the devil**

4. SING BOLDLY: Hymn Connection



 **There is an 11+ minute video that explores the hymn, “Savior of the Nations, Come”. The students will learn how this ties into the subject of our lesson, some background of the hymn, and even teaches you how to sing the first and fifth verses boldly!**


Teachers: At this point in the lesson, there will be an option to skip ahead to the **“Memory Work and Wrap Up”** portion. Alternatively, you may lead your group through all or part of **“Here I Hear & Speak”**. This section will equip you to lead group discussion and achieve the lesson’s learning goals. We advise that you explore this option with your small group (or as an individual). You will be learning about this part of Martin Luther’s Small Catechism, how it comes out of God’s Word in Scripture, and even how to equip our learners how to give that Word to others.

5. HERE I HEAR & SPEAK: Discussions and Activities




Group Activity: You’re a bunch of teenagers. You probably still live with your parents, and they might even have a say over what happens with you from day to day. You might go to a school where the teachers and principals have authority over you as well. Your coaches and directors and small-group leaders also exert some control over your life, too. Yet, you’re also growing up; you’re gaining more freedom and responsibility. You probably have more say in your day-to-day life than when you were five.

- Do you ever grow tired of others having control? When?
- Do you ever wish this “growing up” and “more responsibility” thing would slow down? When?

 **TEACHER NOTE:** Some confirmands have likely grown tired of being under the thumb of another. Others will be quite comfortable with it, even wishing the stage of life under the roof of parents and the rule of others would last much longer. Both, of course, are relatable, if not understandable. One could ask the students to come up with examples – they likely don’t fall in one camp or another ALL of the time.

- Do you like the idea of someone “lording over” you? Is it difficult to admit that Jesus is your Lord? Is His “lording” different from the kind of “lording” parents are called to do?

 **TEACHER NOTE:** Confirmands might be surprised that part of the parents job is to “lord” over their kids. But they ARE called to do this, and one could always point students that balk at this back to the 4th commandment 😊. You can be honest with them, and say “If your parents (or guardians) didn’t have control over your life when you were growing up, you

never would have survived this long!” Jesus’ reign over you is different. To those beat up by life - by their own failures and the burdens of others - Jesus delivers mercy. No one Lords like Jesus does. And this: He knows that your control over your own salvation is a disaster. You’d mess it all up. So - Jesus will give you faith, not in yourself, but in Him. He’s got this.



This lesson should help you understand more about Jesus, the subject of the 2nd Article of the Apostles’ Creed. We’ll primarily look at WHO Jesus is and WHAT Jesus does.




In the Word:


- Luke 2 has the narrative of Jesus’ birth - born of the virgin Mary - that you’re probably familiar with. The gospel of John tells the story a different way.




- Read: John 1:1-5 & John 1:10-14

 **TEACHER NOTE:** You could have the kids read these as they are seen on the Articulate 360 Module. You could also have the kids search these verses out in the Bible, especially if you want them to develop the skill of finding passages in it.

- Discuss: Many things are said about “the Word” in the kick off point of John’s gospel. What is revealed about this “Word”? What does the phrase “Word made flesh” mean? Has this Word always existed? Who is this Word?

 **TEACHER NOTE:** The fancy way of saying “Word made flesh” is “Incarnation”. God becomes human. Jesus was there from before the beginning (as the evangelist John points out), but chose to come right here to earth at a specific time. The Athanasian Creed goes further than the Apostles’ Creed to clear up any confusion about the birth of Christ – He is begotten; God didn’t make Jesus. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were all there from the beginning, as Scripture reveals.

- Pause & Reflect: The stuff in this passage might wash over you as mundane. Ordinary. Normal. But it’s none of those things. Remember this - there is a separation between God and Man. I’d bet that, naturally, you think it is your job to find God. Do the very best things to get on his level to close the gap between you. Well, God doesn’t leave you where you are and say, “C’mon kid. Get better. Until then, no relationship for you. You’re alone.” Instead, God (yes, GOD HIMSELF) comes down to where you are and takes on flesh. As Psalm 46 sings out, He comes right into your “trouble” to provide His help for what has power over you. Can you speak any words of how this “God move” makes you feel?

 **TEACHER NOTE:** Some confirmands might even think they have the ability to find God by themselves - or IN themselves. Or even do all the right things to ascend to Him. If that is his/her confession at the time, you have the opportunity to tell the truth. He/She can’t do this. No one loves the neighbor perfectly. They love some and forsake others every single day.


God decides to enter into his/her self-idolatry, his/her puffed up view of themselves, and squash it. That's not all, though. His promise of forgiveness makes sinners in front of you forgiven children of God. So - if your kids don't have the words of praise and thanksgiving for this promise, you can go ahead and give it to them!



You might be wondering - Am I *really* in trouble? Are there really things that have power over me? What is this problem that I have? If this is you, I suppose we could go back to our 10 Commandments lessons. Or see how the apostle Paul laments this in Romans 7. Or, you can come to the conclusion that you're in trouble naturally. After all, you've been around this world for a minute. Still not convinced?



- Read: 2 Corinthians 5:21 & Isaiah 53:4-6
- Discuss: Based on what Scripture says, where are we left if we don't have Jesus?
- Where are we when we have Jesus and His Gift of Forgiveness? When Christ gives Himself to you, what have you received? What did Christ do on the cross? What victory did Christ achieve when raised by the Father?

 **TEACHER NOTE:** We're in the kingdom of Christ! Salvation, and a heaven better than what we can imagine is in store for us when Christ gives his righteousness to us. What did Christ do on the Cross? He died with the sins of the world upon His body, including mine. He lost big-time. But death did not have the final word. The Father raised Jesus, and Jesus knew this certainly by faith. Christ doesn't waver like we do. He conquered sin, death, and the devil. Quite a victory!



So, Jesus has done a whole lot! Where is He now?


Many passages of Scripture (Ephesians 1:20, Hebrews 12:1-2, Mark 16:19) describe Jesus being at "the right hand of God". Read the following passages to discover where Jesus - the right hand of God - extends to today.



The following activity will help students understand where Jesus has promised to be. This table will detail where the right hand of God is:

Scripture Verse/Passage	Where is Jesus?
Matthew 18:20	Wherever 2 or 3 gather in His Name
Luke 24:50-51	Heaven
Ephesians 3:16-17a	In your heart, through faith
Ephesians 4:9-10	The whole universe
Matthew 28:20	With You (always to the end of the age)
John 14:2-3	At His Father's House, preparing a place for you


- Discuss: Is Jesus limited to one place and time?
- Answer: Nope! He is bringing His Kingdom and the New Day *wherever His Word is spoken!* When Jesus says He is somewhere (or even when you hear that He's in your heart), He is. The Right Hand of God is mighty, and our Lord Jesus is in many places through His Word.
- Let's Share the Good News! Turn to someone in your group and share this good news of Jesus' presence. Here are some examples:
 - (Insert name), can you hear this? Jesus decided to be with you to the end of the age.
 - Hey (insert name), Jesus Christ is for you and He has a place for you in heaven with Him. Jesus said so, and He doesn't lie.
 - (Insert name), faithful Christian friend, hear this Word. By Jesus' promise that you can count on, you are saved!

 **TEACHER NOTE:** We are training little preachers here! Really! Part of confirmation is practicing how to give this Word to others. They learn how forgiven sinners (Christians) give the forgiveness of sins to others in the name of Christ. It is our hope that this happens often. Some will not be comfortable with it, so perhaps the kids will need some examples. It is our hope that the confirmands would enjoy being used this way, and some might even surprise you.




Other Discussion Options:

So, who is Jesus? What are the things He did? What, would you say, are the most important things to know about Jesus?


 **TEACHER NOTE:** Have students write answers on the whiteboard or sticky-notes. You could have them declare what they know from the tops of their heads, or they could reference Scripture, the Creed, and Luther's Explanation of the 2nd Article.

Do actions speak louder than words? What if it's the Word of Christ that is spoken? Is there a difference?

 **TEACHER NOTE:** Sometimes a good word from a friend, teacher, coach, coworker, or family member really helps to make our day! One aspect that is different about "words" - how

we think about and use them and how God does - is that God's Word produces the action. God speaks. It happens. Even more difficult for us Christians to understand, is that God's Word - the one that produces the action and creates faith - comes through a person, like a pastor, or even those people listed before. The power of the Forgiveness Word, the Gospel, is something we'll continue to learn about in confirmation.

Can you list the names for Jesus that you've heard or read?

 **TEACHER NOTE:** Messiah, Emmanuel, Christ, Son of God, Prince of Peace, Mighty Counselor, teacher, rabbi, Savior, Son of Man - all of these names/labels are attributed to Jesus.

When God redeems you, is it like redeeming a coupon at a grocery store? Why? Why not?

6. MEMORY WORK



This lesson has a challenging amount of memorization, but you can do it! Check out the song after reading the article and the explanation!

- *The Second Article:* I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- *What does this mean?* I believe that Jesus Christ- true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary- is my Lord. At great cost he has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil- not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. All this he has done that I may be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

7. LEARNING CHECK



Match these events of Jesus' life to the days in our church calendar:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Christmas | Jesus' Death |
| Palm Sunday | Jesus' Birth |
| Good Friday | 10 Days After Jesus' Ascension |
| Easter | Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem |
| Pentecost | Jesus' Resurrection |



- Jesus is _____. (select all that apply)
 - **fully God**
 - **fully man**
 - ½ man, ½ God
 - sometimes fully man, sometimes fully God



- What does “incarnation” mean? (select two)
 - **To take on flesh**
 - To be raised from the dead
 - **To become a human**
 - The appropriate flower to give to your mom on Mother’s day



- Who has the final word over you? How long does that word last?
 - **Jesus Christ; Forever**
 - The devil; Forever
 - Jesus Christ; It depends on how many good things you do
 - The devil; You can never be sure



- **True/False:** God has saved and redeemed you, a lost and condemned person.



- When Jesus ascends to heaven and the right hand of God, He is _____.
 - absent from the events on earth until He comes back.
 - **present and wherever His Word is proclaimed.**



- What do you need freedom from?
 - Sin
 - Death
 - Devil
 - Law
 - **All of the above**



- Christ sets YOU free. How (What means) does Jesus do this?
 - Jesus provides you daily bread for this life, including family and friends.
 - Jesus died on the cross with all your sins. He was raised from hell, and His Living Word of forgiveness got to you as a GIFT. You believe it.
 - If you come up short in the good works department, Jesus will cover the rest.
 - He is the EXAMPLE for you to follow.

8. WRAP UP

Closing Prayer & Benediction



Click on the praying hands to find the Closing Prayer.

- Dear Lord Jesus, thanks for being where we are, very present with Your Word that saves. Place your promise in our ears and hearts today and always. Amen.

It is good practice to give a blessing to each individual student before they leave you! (You might also select one of them to give this spoken benediction to you.) Our Lord uses baptized believers to give this, God's message, to one another. Here is a Benediction that you could use this week:

- (Name), Christ is risen, indeed, and You have been united to Him!



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