



## A Word from Pastor Schielke

### On Creeds: Part 6

From the 2<sup>nd</sup> article of the Nicene Creed: On the third day, He rose again according to the Scriptures.

St. Paul writes, "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14). If Jesus did not rise from the dead literally, physically, and visibly, the Christian church has no reason to exist. Some people, even some church bodies, have said things like, "Well, what really matters is that His disciples believed that Jesus rose from the dead." Wrong. Jesus was crucified on a cross on the hill of Mount Calvary, literally and completely died, was buried in a sealed tomb, and rose from the dead in His body. His body was raised a glorious incorruptible body. That's what actually matters. Christianity is the only religion in the world whose "founder" died and rose from the dead in a physical body and whose resurrected body was seen by hundreds.

If Jesus didn't rise from the

dead, Christianity has nothing to offer. Jesus becomes just another moral teacher who was put to death for His out-of-the-box thinking and teaching. He becomes just another historical figure who met an untimely end. But since the resurrection is true, it proves that Jesus is indeed the Son of God. It proves that His death on the cross satisfied the wrath of God. It proves that Jesus will raise the faithful saints out of their graves on the last day also with glorified bodies to live with Him in an eternal paradise prepared for us. It proves that everything Jesus said was true.

This resurrection is attested to by the Scriptures. That is, the New Testament explicitly describes the events of Jesus' resurrection in detail, and the rest of the New Testament is saturated with the reality of that event. But not only the New Testament. Jesus says after His resurrection in the book of Luke, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and

the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead" (Luke 24:44-46). The "Scriptures" here must refer to the Old Testament since the New Testament was not written when Jesus uttered these words. So, "according to the Scriptures" in the Creed means both that the New Testament is a faithful witness to the truth of the resurrection and that Jesus' resurrection is the fulfillment of the Old Testament as well.

The resurrection of Jesus isn't something we talk about or meditate on only at Easter. It should shape every day of our lives as Christians. Since Jesus rose from the dead He is victorious over death. Since we have been baptized into His death we will be raised with Him to new life. We are victorious over death. Nothing this world throws at us can undo what Jesus has done for us.



**The Formula of Concord** - The Formula of Concord (FC) was the last of the confessional documents written by the Lutherans in the 16th century. Finished in 1577, the FC consists of twelve articles presented in two parts. The first part, the Epitome, is a brief presentation of each point of doctrine and the controversy surrounding it while the Solid Declaration presents a more detailed discussion. Over a dozen authors contributed portions of draft versions of the FC, but the most influential authors of the final document were Jakob Andrea and Martin Chemnitz. The need for the FC arose after the death of Martin Luther in 1546. Over time, the Lutherans became divided over several points of doctrine. Several political peace treaties also forced the Lutherans to entertain and accept certain points of Reformed theology which had been developing in Switzerland. Thus, the FC was pivotal in clarifying the Lutheran position over and against both the Roman Catholic position and more significantly, over the Reformed position. It is the FC that most clearly distinguishes Lutheran teaching on several important points and against the various Protestant bodies we see around us even today. Over the next months, you will find the articles of the Epitome of the Formula of Concord in our newsletter. It's good for all of us to have at least some familiarity with this important doctrinal statement.

### III - The Righteousness of Faith before God - The Principal Question in This Controversy.

<sup>1</sup>Since it is unanimously confessed in our churches, in accordance with God's Word and the sense of the Augsburg Confession, that we poor sinners are justified before God and saved alone by faith in Christ, and thus Christ alone is our Righteousness, who is true God and man, because in Him the divine and human natures are personally united with one another, [Jer. 23:6](#); [1 Cor. 1:30](#); [2 Cor. 5:21](#), the question has arisen: According to which nature is Christ our Righteousness? and thus two contrary errors have arisen in some churches.

<sup>2</sup>For the one side has held that Christ according to His divinity alone is our Righteousness, if He dwell in us by faith; contrasted with this divinity, dwelling in us by faith, the sins of all men must be regarded as a drop of water compared to the great ocean. Others, on the contrary, have held that Christ is our Righteousness before God according to the human nature alone.

#### Affirmative Theses.

#### Pure Doctrine of the Christian Churches against Both Errors Just Mentioned.

<sup>3</sup>1. Against both the errors just recounted, we unanimously believe, teach, and confess that Christ is our Righteousness neither according to the divine nature alone nor according to the human nature alone, but that it is the entire Christ according to both natures, in His obedience alone, which as God and man He rendered to the Father even unto death, and thereby merited for us the forgiveness of sins and eternal life, as it is written: As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One shall many be made righteous, [Rom. 5:19](#).

<sup>4</sup>2. Accordingly, we believe, teach, and confess that our righteousness before God is (this very thing), that God forgives us our sins out of pure grace, without any work, merit, or worthiness of ours preceding, present, or following, that He presents and imputes to us the righteousness of Christ's obedience, on account of which righteousness we are received into grace by God, and regarded as righteous.

<sup>5</sup>3. We believe, teach, and confess that faith alone is the means and instrument whereby we lay hold of Christ, and thus in Christ of that righteousness which avails before God, for whose sake this faith is imputed to us for righteousness, [Rom. 4:5](#).

<sup>6</sup>4. We believe, teach, and confess that this faith is not a bare knowledge of the history of Christ, but such a gift of God by which we come to the right knowledge of Christ as our Redeemer in the Word of the Gospel, and trust in Him that for the sake of His obedience alone we have, by grace, the forgiveness of sins, are regarded as holy and righteous before God the Father, and eternally saved.

<sup>7</sup>5. We believe, teach, and confess that according to the usage of Holy Scripture the word justify means in this article, to absolve, that is, to declare free from sins. [Prov. 17:15](#): He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the righteous, even they both are abomination to the Lord. Also [Rom. 8:33](#): Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

<sup>8</sup>And when, in place of this, the words regeneratio and vivificatio, that is, regeneration and vivification, are employed, as in the Apology, this is done in the same sense. By these terms, in other places, the renewal of man is understood, and distinguished from justification by faith.

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church  
January 2024

"But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."  
**1 Corinthians 15:57**



**Victory in Christ Lutheran Church**  
508 Main Street Newark, Texas  
817-489-5400  
viclutheranchurch.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Epiphany
7 Divine Service 10 a.m Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon Council Meeting	8	9 Women's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	10	11	12	13
14 Divine Service 10 a.m Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon	15	16 Women's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	17	18	19	20 Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.
21 Divine Service 10 a.m Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon	22	23 Women's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	24	25	26	27
28 Divine Service 10 a.m Bible Studay / Sunday School 11 a.m. Lunch noon Voters' Meeting	29	30 Women's Bible Study 1:30 p.m.	31			



Epiphany

**Epiphany** - Epiphany is when the wise men came to Bethlehem and offered their gifts to Jesus. This day is celebrated on Saturday, January 6.

**Ash Wednesday** is on Wednesday, February 14.

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**January Birthdays:**

3 Robin Kroeger

8 Donna Schober

25 Carrie Purdom

26 Logan Rohloff



**Future Church Cleanings:**

Jan. 6 Hill Family

Jan. 20 Kroeger, McClain, Wilson,  
and Schwiesow Families

Feb. 3 Brad Rohloff Family

Feb. 17 Gary and Tim Rohloff Families

**For 2024, I would like to challenge every member of this congregation to read or continue reading through the Bible in one year. The Bible readings for January and part of February are listed below.**

January 1: Genesis 1-3	January 15: Genesis 43-45	January 29: Exodus 33-35
January 2: Genesis 4-7	January 16: Genesis 46-47	January 30: Exodus 36-38
January 3: Genesis 8-11	January 17: Genesis 48-50	January 31: Exodus 39-40
January 4: Genesis 12 -15	January 18: Exodus 1-3	February 1: Leviticus 1-4
January 5: Genesis 16-18	January 19: Exodus 4-6	February 2: Leviticus 5-7
January 6: Genesis 19-21	January 20: Exodus 7-9	February 3: Leviticus 8-10
January 7: Genesis 22-24	January 21: Exodus 10-12	February 4: Leviticus 11-13
January 8: Genesis 25-26	January 22: Exodus 13-15	February 5: Leviticus 14-15
January 9: Genesis 27-29	January 23: Exodus 16-18	February 6: Leviticus 16-18
January 10: Genesis 30-31	January 24: Exodus 19-21	February 7: Leviticus 19-21
January 11: Genesis 32-34	January 25: Exodus 22-24	February 8: Leviticus 22-23
January 12: Genesis 35-37	January 26: Exodus 25-27	February 9: Leviticus 24-25
January 13: Genesis 38-40	January 27: Exodus 28-29	February 10: Leviticus 26-27
January 14: Genesis 41-42	January 28: Exodus 30-32	February 11: Numbers 1-2

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