

Daily Devotions for Home and Family
For the Week of The Sixth Sunday after Trinity
July 23 through July 29

THE SMALCALD ARTICLES, PARTS I & II

The first part of the Articles treats the sublime articles of the divine majesty, namely:

1. That Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three distinct persons in one divine essence and nature, are one God, who created heaven and earth, etc.
2. That the Father was begotten by no one, the Son was begotten by the Father, and the Holy Spirit proceeded from the Father and the Son.
3. That only the Son became man, and neither the Father nor the Holy Spirit.
4. That the Son became man in this manner: he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, without the cooperation of man, and was born of the pure, holy, and virgin Mary.³ Afterwards he suffered, died, was buried, descended to hell, rose from the dead, and ascended to heaven; and he is seated at the right hand of God, will come to judge the living and the dead, etc., as the Apostles' Creed, the Athanasian Creed, and the Catechism in common use for children⁴ teach.

These articles are not matters of dispute or contention, for both parties confess them.⁵ Therefore, it is not necessary to treat them at greater length.

The second part treats the articles which pertain to the office and work of Jesus Christ, or to our redemption.

[ARTICLE I. CHRIST AND FAITH]

¹ The first and chief article is this, that Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, “was put to death for our trespasses and raised again for our justification” (Rom. 4:25).

² He alone is “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). “God has laid upon him the iniquities of us all” (Isa. 53:6).

³ Moreover, “all have sinned,” and “they are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, by his blood” (Rom. 3:23–25). ⁴ Inasmuch as this must be believed and cannot be obtained or apprehended by any work, law, or merit, it is clear and certain that such faith alone justifies us, as St. Paul says in Romans 3, “For we hold that a man is justified by faith apart from works of law” (Rom. 3:28), and again, “that he [God] himself is righteous and that he justifies him who has faith in Jesus” (Rom. 3:26). ⁵ Nothing in this article can be given up or compromised,⁶ even if heaven and earth and things temporal should be destroyed. For as St. Peter says, “There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). “And with his stripes we are healed” (Isa. 53:5). On this article rests all that we teach and practice against the pope, the devil, and the world. Therefore we must be quite certain and have no doubts about it. Otherwise all is lost, and the pope, the devil, and all our adversaries will gain the victory. ~ The Smalcald Articles, Part I; Part II, Art. I:1-5

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from this order as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.
Learn by heart the catechism and hymn each week.*

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting.
Amen.

Psalm – 19

The Catechism – Confession

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to the Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Daily Readings:

Sunday, July 23 – Acts 19:1-21:14

Monday, July 24 – Acts 21:15-36

Tuesday, July 25 – Acts 21:37-22:16 (*Feast of St. James the Elder, Apostle;*
suggested add'l reading: Mark 10:35-45)

Wednesday, July 26 – Acts 22:17-29

Thursday, July 27 – Acts 22:30-23:11

Friday, July 28 – Acts 23:12-35 (*Commemoration of Johann Sebastian Bach, Kantor*)

Saturday, July 29 – Acts 24:1-23 (*Commemoration of Mary, Martha, & Lazarus of Bethany*)

Meditation (*If you are using another devotional tool, such as Portals of Prayer, this would be an appropriate place to insert it*)

Prayers

Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O Lord, turn your eyes in mercy towards us...behold, visit, and relieve all Your servants who stand in need of prayer:

St. John's Lutheran Church	Louise Blydenburgh	Susan Duffy
The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod	Dianne Ferremi	Richard Duffy
The Rev. Matthew Harrison	Richard Meltsner	Marge Glass
The Atlantic District	Madison Coffey	Bubby Verspoor
The Rev. Derek Lecakes	William Rossiter	Irene Jones
Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne	Stacy Harris	Donald Duval
The Rev. Lawrence Rast	Thelma Stegemann	Laura Schneeberg
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Tom Conte	Charles Tichy
The Rev. Dale Meyer	Marie Conte	Lenny Kiesling
Concordia College – New York	Patrice Vitalino	John Wevers
The Rev. John Nunes	Thelma DeJoseph	Peter DiMartini
The Concordia University System	Al DeJoseph	Tony Coppola
Lutheran Parochial Schools	David Bayley	Frank Mondo
Our Sister Churches	Suzanne Weil	Kendall Lillie
All Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers	Pat Simmons	Julie Crawford
The United States of America	Ernie Getzelman	Susan Marotta
President Donald Trump	Jane Simmons	Eboni Marshall
Governor Andrew Cuomo	Andrew Brooks	Nancy Doughty
U.S. Military Personnel	Ike Edwards	Felicia Burke
All Fire, Police, and EMS workers and volunteers	James Stegemann	The Rev. Brian & Kristin Noack
	Marion Werth	The Rev. Jimmy & Yasuyo Coffey
	Lorraine Keller	Alexandria Rappe
	Larry Dimiceli	Ann Inoue
	Aline Duval	
	John Kelly	
	Nancy Merrihue	
	Laura Smeallie	
	Frances Flanagan	

Look upon them with your grace and favor; grant them comfort and a sure confidence in You; defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Morning or Evening Prayer

(Morning) I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

(Evening) I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Hymn for the Week – *All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall*

LSB #562, st. 5

As by one man all mankind fell
And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,
So by one Man, who took our place,
We all were justified by grace.

Closing Blessing

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Looking ahead for The Seventh Sunday after Trinity:

Genesis 2:7-17

Romans 6:19-23

Mark 8:1-9