

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Luther's Small Catechism | Lesson 26: Forgiveness

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

The Forgiveness of Sins

216. Why are all humans in need of God's forgiveness?
Matthew 22:37-39 Matthew 5:48 Psalm 51:5 (see also: *1 Peter 1:16, Romans 5:12, 1 John 1:8, 1 John 3:4, Romans 7:18-19, and Psalm 143:2*)
217. What has God revealed about himself that gives us hope?
Psalm 86:15 (see also: *Isaiah 43:25 and John 3:16*)
218. What did our gracious God do to overturn the judgment against our sin?
Galatians 4:4-5 1 John 2:2 2 Corinthians 5:19 (see also: *John 1:29, Romans 5:18, Ephesians 1:7, and Titus 3:5-7*)
219. How is it possible that God, who is holy and just, would declare sinners righteous?
2 Corinthians 5:21 Romans 3:23-25 (see also: *Isaiah 53:5-6 and Romans 4:25*)
220. Why doesn't everyone receive the blessings that Christ won for every person on the cross?
Philippians 3:18-19 Romans 10:3 Hebrews 10:26 (see also: *Romans 2:12, Matthew 22:1-14, Galatians 5:4, and Romans 3:23-25*)
221. What means does the Holy Spirit use to bring Christ's forgiveness to our hearts?
Romans 1:16 Acts 2:38 Matthew 26:26-28
222. How do we receive the forgiveness of sins that God declared for all people?
Ephesians 2:8-9 (see also: *Romans 3:22, 28; Romans 4:5; Romans 1:17; Genesis 15:6; Galatians 3:26-27; and Acts 10:43*)

223. Why can we be certain that our sins have been forgiven?

John 1:29 1 Timothy 4:10 (see also: 1 John 2:2, 2 Corinthians 5:19, Romans 3:23–24, and Titus 3:7)

Luke 23:26–43

1. How might the account of the thief on the cross be a comfort to someone struggling with guilt?
2. What might that person's objections to that comfort be? How might you address those objections?

Recommended memory work: The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed with Explanation