

Article II

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ Here we learn to know the Second Person of the Godhead. We see what we have from God over and above the temporal goods mentioned before. We see how He has completely poured forth Himself [Matthew 26:28] and withheld nothing from us [2 Corinthians 8:9]. Now, this article is very rich and broad. But in order to explain it briefly also and in a childlike way, we shall take up one phrase and sum up the entire article. As we have said, we may learn from this article how we have been redeemed. We shall base this on these words, “In Jesus Christ, our Lord.”

²⁷ Now, if you are asked, “What do you believe in the Second Article about Jesus Christ?” answer briefly,

“I believe that Jesus Christ, God’s true Son, has become my Lord.”

“But what does it mean to become Lord?”

“It is this. He has redeemed me from sin, from the devil, from death, and from all evil. For before I did not have a Lord or King, but was captive under the devil’s power, condemned to death, stuck in sin and blindness” [see Ephesians 2:1–3].

²⁸ For when we had been created by God the Father and had received from Him all kinds of good, the devil came and led us into disobedience, sin, death, and all evil [Genesis 3]. So we fell under God’s wrath and displeasure and were doomed to eternal damnation, just as we had merited and deserved. ²⁹ There was no counsel, help, or comfort until this only and eternal Son of God—in His immeasurable goodness—had compassion upon our misery and wretchedness. He came from heaven to help us [John 1:9]. ³⁰ So those tyrants and jailers are all expelled now. In their place has come Jesus Christ, Lord of life, righteousness, every blessing, and salvation. He has delivered us poor, lost people from hell’s jaws, has won us, has made us free [Romans 8:1–2], and has brought us again into the Father’s favor and grace. He has taken us as His own property under His shelter and protection [Psalm 61:3–4] so that He may govern us by His righteousness, wisdom, power, life, and blessedness. *Continued on page 26*

The Small Catechism The Second Article Redemption

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, 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.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

He Was Pierced for Our Transgressions

^{52:13} Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.

¹⁴ As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵ so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

^{53:1} Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.

See: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

v.13 Exaltation - Jesus is the exalted Lord who was sent by the Father to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

“Wisely” - Jesus acted wisely in our place as He was obedient to the Father’s will.

“High and lifted up” points to Christ’s death, resurrection, ascension.

v.14-15 Humiliation - “*marred, beyond human semblance*” the consequence of sin brought Jesus to be crucified upon the Cross. The punishment by way of the Cross was considered the most excruciating way to die. Jesus stood in your place, as He reveals His love for you by way of His own death. Sprinkle many nations-by His sacrificial blood our sins are washed away.
See: John 1:29

v.53:1-3 Humiliation - “*no form or majesty that we should look at him*” Born in the flesh, Jesus appeared like an other young child born into the world. Instead, the world “*despised*”, “*rejected*” Jesus to the degree that men hide their faces from him. Man of sorrows...grief- Jesus comes into the world to take upon the sorrows and grief of all humanity [since the fall].

See: Ephesians 2:1-9

What does it mean to be dead in our trespasses?

How is God rich in mercy?

¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors

v. 4-6 Vicarious Atonement

Vicarious [defined as] “in place of”, “substitute” “acting in place of another”. Atonement [defined as] “At-one-ment”, “reconciliation”, “one with God”.

“he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows” - Jesus is our substitute as He charged unto himself the grief and sorrows of fallen world. Yet we esteemed him stricken-considered to be a blasphemer, the world did not embrace the true identity of Christ. Yet, the Lord’s plan unfolded through the suffering servant who carried out the Father’s will of salvation. “griefs”, “sorrows”, “transgressions”, “iniquities” characterize the need for healing-with his stripes we are healed. Christ has brought us peace through His healing work upon the Cross.

v.7-9 Passive Obedience

“Oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth”
betrayed by man, Jesus sacrificed Himself for our sins.

By oppression and judgment-
Jesus was wrongfully charged.

They made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death-Roman custom was to have the crucified bodies be devoured by animals, yet Jesus was buried with honor. No deceit in his mouth-perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins.

³¹ Let this, then, be the sum of this article: the little word **Lord** means simply the same as **redeemer**. It means the **One who has brought us from Satan to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and who preserves us in the same**. But all the points that follow in this article serve no other purpose than to explain and express this redemption. **They explain how and by whom it was accomplished**. They explain how much it cost Him and what He spent and risked so that He might win us and bring us under **His dominion**. It explains that He became man [John 1:14], was conceived and **born without sin** [Hebrews 4:15], from the Holy Spirit and from the virgin Mary [Luke 1:35], **so that He might overcome sin**. Further, it explains that He suffered, died, and was buried so that He might make satisfaction for me and pay what I owe [1 Corinthians 15:3–4], not with silver or gold, but with His own precious blood [1 Peter 1:18–19]. **And He did all this in order to become my Lord**. He did none of these things for Himself, nor did He have any need for redemption. After that He rose again from the dead, swallowed up and devoured death [1 Corinthians 15:54], **and finally ascended into heaven and assumed the government at the Father's right hand** [1 Peter 3:22]. He did these things so that the devil and all powers must be subject to Him and lie at His feet [Hebrews 10:12–13] until finally, at the Last Day, He will completely divide and separate us from the wicked world, the devil, death, sin, and such [Matthew 25:31–46; 13:24–30, 47–50].

³² To explain all these individual points does not belong to brief sermons for children. That belongs to fuller sermons that extend throughout the entire year, especially at those times that are appointed for the purpose of treating each article at length—for Christ's birth, sufferings, resurrection, ascension, and so on.

³³ Yes, the entire Gospel that we preach is based on this point, that we properly understand this article as that upon which our salvation and all our happiness rests. It is so rich and complete that we can never learn it fully.

Line 33

Luther says “the entire Gospel that we preach is based on this point”

How do Luther's words help us evaluate if what we hear and read is faithful?

Line 33

Where does Luther Say our happiness rest?