

# Lutheran FAQ:

## What Do Lutherans Believe about the Holy Spirit and Church?

The Third Article of the Apostle's Creed: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the life everlasting. Amen!

What does this mean?

I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy, and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day, the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

When you imagine the Holy Spirit, what do you picture?

Quoted from *Luther's Small Catechism*. Translated by Tim Wengert, published by Augsburg Fortress.

Which phrase in the Third Article is easiest for you to understand? Which one do you have the most questions about?

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We are connected with the church across the world. How does your church show that connection? (Ex: Quilts for Lutheran World Relief,

Companion Synod Relationships, fair trade coffee, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

We believe in "the communion of saints", the Christian community across time. Which saints would you like to spend some time with? \_\_\_\_\_

God is already in community, before anyone else is created, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What communities feed your faith? \_\_\_\_\_

What is one time you've seen the Holy Spirit making you holy? Did you do something or stop doing something? \_\_\_\_\_

Written by the ELCA South Carolina Synod to accompany the video "Lutheran F.A.Q. | What Do Lutherans Believe About the Holy Spirit And The Church?" found at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B\\_aHF1PN\\_xg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_aHF1PN_xg)

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How has the Spirit made you holier?

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We will rise after death to be judged by Christ. Is that a day of fear for you? Joy? Hope? Terror? Why?

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Deeper Dive:

- Learn about your synod’s companion relationships across the world. South Carolina synod is partnered with the Lutheran churches in Japan, in Colombia, and in the Southwest Diocese of Tanzania.
- The Trinity is a complicated concept for mere mortals. Pr. Delmer Chilton’s sermon at Living Lutheran ( <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/05/lectionary-blog-the-mystery-of-the-trinity/> ) is one place to learn more.

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