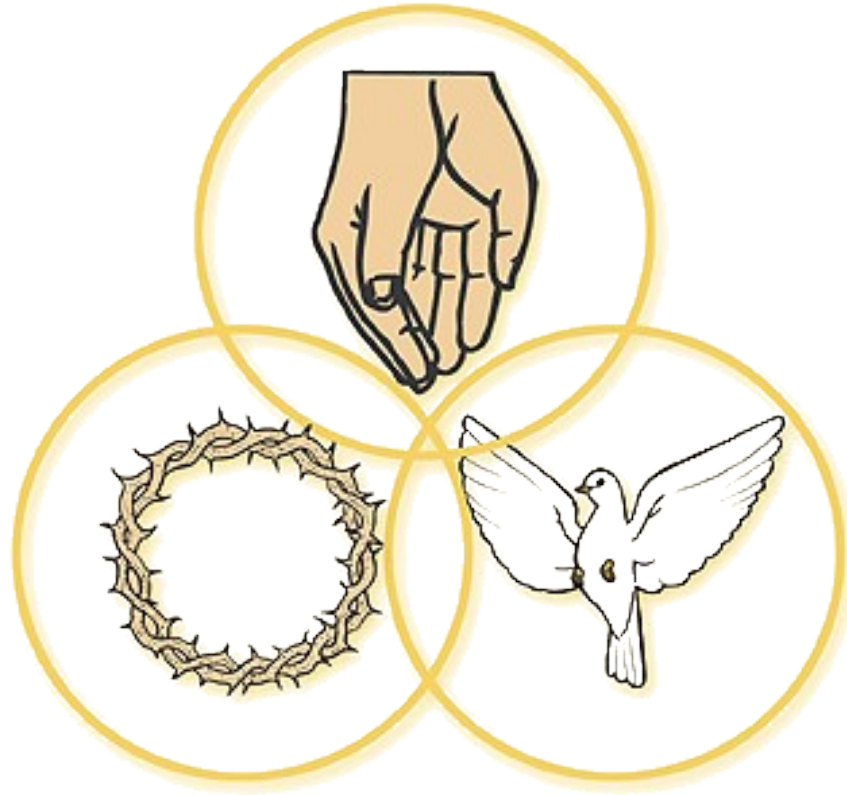


Sermon for A Year with the Catechism Introduction



Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-3, 26-31; 3:1-15

Epistle Reading: Romans 2:5-16

Gospel Reading: John 3:1-21

Sermon Title: A Year with the Catechism: Introduction

Introit: Psalm 19:8,1-6; Antiphon: Psalm 19:8

Hymns:

LSB 894 – For the Fruits of His Creation
LSB 801 – How Great Thou Art
LSB 618 – I Come O Savior to Thy Table
LSB 610 – Lord Jesus Think on Me
LSB 817 – Earth and All Stars

Liturgy:

Divine Service I, p. 151

Songs:

Child of Love - We The Kingdom
Image Of God - We Are Messengers
Agnus Dei – Micheal W. Smith
There Was Jesus - Zach Williams
Word Of God Speak – Mercy Me

Liturgy:

Creative Worship

Collect Prayer

P: Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, instill in our hearts the live of Your name, impress in our minds the teachings of Your Word, and increase in our lives all that is holy and just. This we pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

As we Gather

This week is the introduction to a Year with the Catechism series. Why a Year with the Catechism? "We've already learned this stuff." "The Catechism is for kids." "I already know it." The truth is none of us know it well enough. The treasure of the Holy Christian Church is God's Word and the Confessions which have been used to structure and govern the Church from the beginning. The Small Catechism is taking those deep, rich, challenging documents called the Confessions, bring them to you, as Martin Luther expressed it, "in a simple way."

Children's Sermon

Theme: God's love is immeasurable!

Object: A measuring cup, a tape measure, and a watch

Scripture: God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

One of my favorite Bible verses begins, "For God so loved the world." I was thinking about that verse and wondering -- just how great is God's love and how could we measure it? This morning I brought several things that we often use in measuring other things. I thought they might help us measure God's love.

Sometimes we use a measuring cup to measure things. If I were making some cookies, I would use a measuring cup to make sure that I put in exactly the right amount of flour, sugar, and milk. I wonder if we might use a measuring cup to measure God's love? The Bible says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want....my cup runneth over." (Psalm 23:1,5) Well, if our cup runs over with God's love, I don't guess we could use a measuring cup to measure it.

If we were building something, we might use a tape measure to measure the length, width, and height of different things. I wonder if we might use a tape measure to measure God's love? The Bible tells us that God's love is higher than the heavens. (Psalm 108:4) If God's love is higher than the heavens, I don't think we could use a tape measure to measure it, could we?

We use a watch to measure time. There will probably be some people here this morning who will use their watch to measure how long the pastor's sermon lasts. I wonder if we could use a watch to measure how long God's love will last. The Bible tells us that God's love is from everlasting to everlasting. (Psalm 103:17) Wow! If God's love is from everlasting to everlasting, I don't guess we could measure it with a watch.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." How do you measure a love like that? We can't measure it -- we don't need to -- but we do need to experience it.

My prayer for you today is, "That you may understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience it, though it is so great you will never fully understand it." (Ephesians 3:18-19)

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your love -- a love so great that you gave your one and only Son so that we could have eternal life. Amen.