

BULLETIN INSERT 3.18.26

OPENING LITANY

We begin in the name of God, **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**
What does this mean, this belief? **I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God daily and abundantly provides for me.**
We confess that Jesus is Lord.
He has redeemed and freed us so that we may belong to him.
How is this possible when we are who we are?
We believe because the Holy Spirit calls us.
Called, gathered, enlightened, and made holy, we praise God.
This is most certainly true!

MARTIN LUTHER'S

The Marks of the Church

In 1539, Luther wrote "On the Councils and the Church" as part of the real possibility that the Roman Catholic church and the Lutheran church would not be reconciled in his lifetime. The third section of the book is to be studied during Lent. He identified seven marks of the church which can assure us of God's work in the world. Please join us for simple worship and meal during Lent and take home our litanies and Luther's words as part of your family's faith journey to Easter. PT

*"Well then, the Children's Creed teaches us that a Christian holy people is to be and to remain on earth until the end of the world. This is an article of faith that cannot be terminated until that which it believes comes, as Christ promises, "I am with you always, to the close of the age" [Matt. 28:20]. But how will or how can a poor confused person tell where such Christian holy people are to be found in this world?"*¹ Martin Luther

¹ Martin Luther, *Luther's Works, Vol. 41: Church and Ministry III*, ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1999), 148.



PRAYER, PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

The holy Christian people are externally recognized by prayer, public praise, and thanksgiving to God. Where you see and hear the Lord's Prayer prayed and taught; or psalms or other spiritual songs sung, in accordance with the word of God and the true faith; also the creed, the Ten Commandments, and the catechism used in public, you may rest assured that a holy Christian people of God are present. For prayer, too, is one of the precious holy possessions whereby everything is sanctified, as St. Paul says [1 Tim. 4:5]. The psalms too are nothing but prayers in which we praise, thank, and glorify God. The creed and the Ten Commandments are also God's word and belong to the holy possession, whereby the Holy Spirit sanctifies the holy people of Christ. However, we are now speaking of prayers and songs which are intelligible and from which we can learn and by means of which we can mend our ways. The clamor of monks and nuns and priests is not prayer, nor is it praise to God; for they do not understand it, nor do they learn anything from it; they do it like a donkey, only for the sake of the belly and not at all in quest of any reform or sanctification or of the will of God.^[1]

^[1] Martin Luther, *Luther's Works, Vol. 41: Church and Ministry III*, ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1999), 164.