

# THE CREED

## THE THIRD ARTICLE (PART 1)

### DEVOTION

#### I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT . . .

*What does this mean?* I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

**No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except in the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:3)**

### FOR SHARING

1. “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God’” (Psalm 14:1). What reasons do people give for not believing in God?
2. “You were dead in the trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1). What do St. Paul’s words convey about the human condition apart from Christ? What evidence do you see of “spiritual death” in the world?
3. The Holy Spirit, Luther notes, calls and enlightens people by the Gospel. What comfort do you have in knowing your salvation and conversion are God’s work from start to finish?
4. The Holy Spirit, Jesus promised, “will bear witness about Me” (John 15:26). What has the Spirit brought you to know and believe about Jesus and His plan for your life?
5. The Holy Spirit is not a one-time gift from God, but rather a gift that keeps on giving: He sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith. Tell about the work of the Spirit in your life today.

### PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Thank You for calling me to Christ by the Gospel. Keep me in the salvation my Lord has given to me. Bless me with Your presence and grant me a deep trust in my Savior day by day. Help me to share this gift of faith with all people. In Jesus’ name. Amen.