

# THE CREED

## THE THIRD ARTICLE (PART 2)

### DEVOTION

#### **I BELIEVE IN . . . THE HOLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS.**

*What does this mean?* In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

**To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:7)**

### FOR SHARING

1. “She’s a saint!” From the world’s perspective, what makes a person a saint? In what ways does “saint” have a negative connotation today?
2. The Church is the communion of saints—people set apart by God in Christ through the Gospel. In what sense is the Church an “invisible community”? a “visible community”?
3. We are, Luther notes, “at the same time saint and sinner.” How are we a saint? In what way are we still a sinner?
4. Sainthood is a pure gift from God made possible only through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. What difference has the gift of forgiveness and salvation in Christ made in your life?
5. “Keep alert,” St. Paul writes, “making supplication for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:18). What specifically can you pray for God’s Church—His saints—today?

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I thank You that You have made me a saint through Your Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord. I ask that You continue to bless me with Your Spirit so that I might lead a life worthy of Your calling. Encourage me to share this gift of sainthood with my friends, relatives, and all other people that I meet. In Jesus’ name. Amen.