

**Hearing the Word - John 10 – Good Shepherd Sunday – Calls, Gathers, Enlightens Sanctifies
The Doctrine of Election**

A quick look at the lectionary's Easter Context: The Easter IV Pivot from Resurrection toward Pentecost

OT Shepherds: Genesis

Exodus

Numbers 27:12ff. "sheep without a Shepherd"

David in his person, David in His Office (2 Samuel 7)

Isaiah 40:11

Psalm 23

Ezekiel 34

NT Shepherds: Synoptics: Matthew 9:36, Mark 6:34

John 10

Hebrews 13:20

1 Peter 5

Revelation 7:17

Focus on Today's Readings: Psalm 23; John 10:22-30

ESV Psalm 23:1

A Psalm of David.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

(Psa 23:1 ESV)

John 10:22-30

²² At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter,

²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon.

²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

²⁵ Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me,

²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock.

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

³⁰ I and the Father are one." (Joh 10:22-30 ESV)

The Second Article.

Of Redemption.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

What does this mean?--Answer.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won [delivered] me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, in order that I may be [wholly] His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Theses on Election:

1. That the human race is truly redeemed and reconciled with God through Christ, who, by His faultless [innocency] obedience, suffering, and death, has merited for us the righteousness which avails before God, and eternal life.
2. That such merit and benefits of Christ shall be presented, offered, and distributed to us through His Word and Sacraments.
3. That by His Holy Ghost, through the Word, when it is preached, heard, and pondered, He will be efficacious and active in us, convert hearts to true repentance, and preserve them in the true faith.
4. That He will justify all those who in true repentance receive Christ by a true faith, and will receive them into grace, the adoption of sons, and the inheritance of eternal life.
5. That He will also sanctify in love those who are thus justified, as St. Paul says, Eph. 1:4.
6. That He also will protect them in their great weakness against the devil, the world, and the flesh, and rule and lead them in His ways, raise them again [place His hand beneath them], when they stumble, comfort them under the cross and in temptation, and preserve them [for life eternal].
7. That He will also strengthen, increase, and support to the end the good work which He has begun in them, if they adhere to God's Word, pray diligently, abide in God's goodness [grace], and faithfully use the gifts received.
8. That finally He will eternally save and glorify in life eternal those whom He has elected, called, and justified.

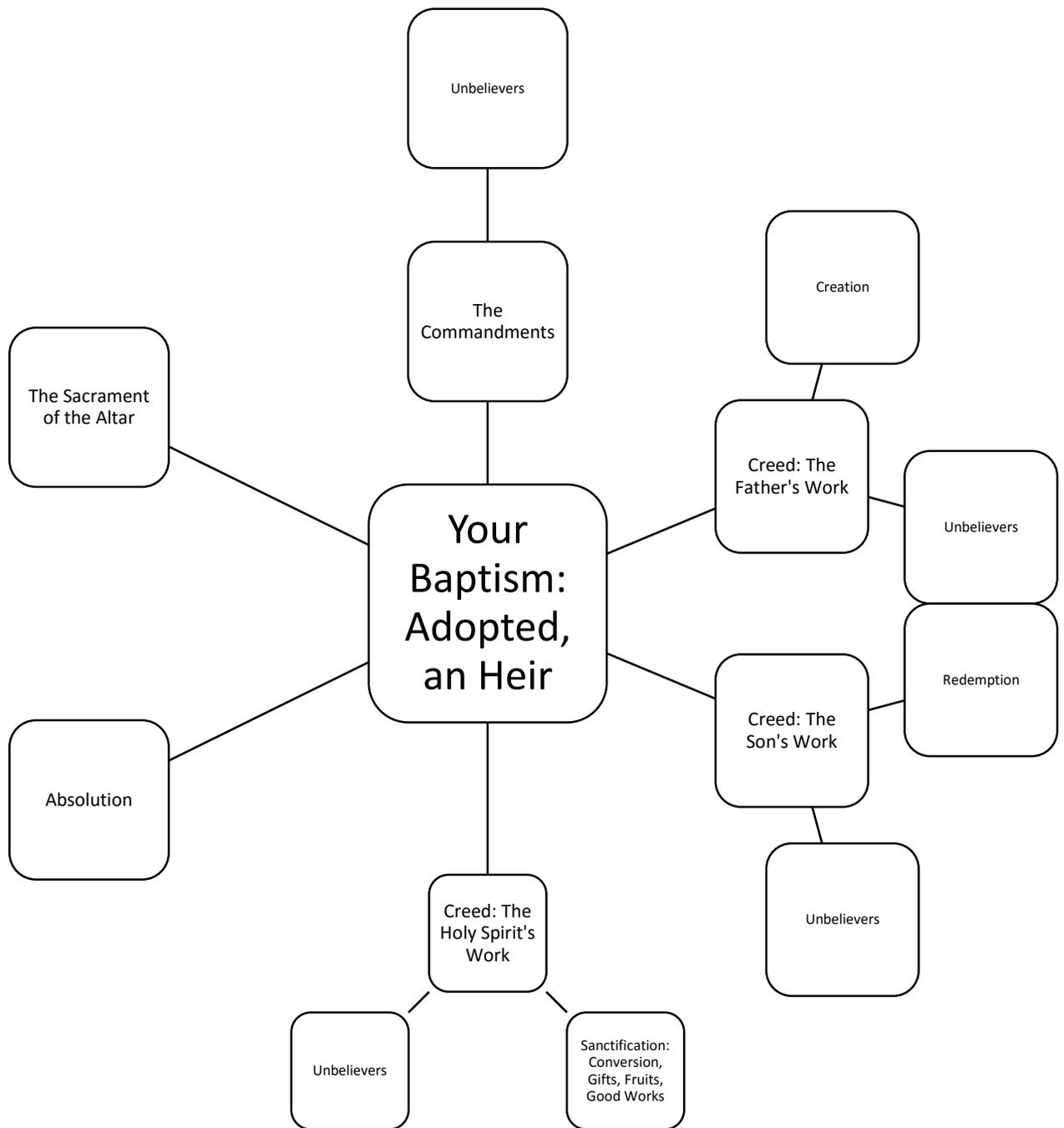
The Third Article.

Of Sanctification.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; one holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?--Answer.

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He forgives daily and richly all sins to me and all believers, and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will give to me and to all believers in Christ everlasting life. This is most certainly true.



724 If God Himself Be for Me

1 If God Himself be for me,
 I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me
 My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my head and master,
 Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster
 Can drive me from His love?

2 I build on this foundation,
 That Jesus and His blood
Alone are my salvation,
 My true, eternal good.
Without Him all that pleases
 Is valueless on earth;
The gifts I have from Jesus
 Alone have priceless worth.

3 Christ Jesus is my splendor,
 My sun, my light, alone;
Were He not my defender
 Before God's judgment throne,
I never should find favor
 And mercy in His sight,
But be destroyed forever
 As darkness by the light.

4 He canceled my offenses,
 Delivered me from death;
He is the Lord who cleanses
 My soul from sin through faith.
In Him I can be cheerful,
 Courageous on my way;
In Him I am not fearful
 Of God's great Judgment Day.

5 For no one can condemn me
 Or set my hope aside;
Now hell no more can claim me:
 Its fury I deride.
No sentence now reproves me,
 No guilt destroys my peace;
For Christ, my Savior, loves me
 And shields me with His grace.

6 Who clings with resolution
 To Him whom Satan hates
Must look for persecution;
 For him the burden waits
Of mock'ry, shame, and losses
 Heaped on his blameless head;
A thousand plagues and crosses
 Will be his daily bread.

7 From me this is not hidden,
 Yet I am not afraid;
I leave my cares, as bidden,
 To whom my vows were paid.
Though life from me be taken
 And ev'rything I own,
I trust in You unshaken
 And cleave to You alone.

8 No danger, thirst, or hunger,
 No pain or poverty,
No earthly tyrant's anger
 Shall ever vanquish me.
Though earth should break asunder,
 My fortress You shall be;
No fire or sword or thunder
 Shall sever You from me.

9 No angel and no gladness,
 No throne, no pomp, no show,
No love, no hate, no sadness,
 No pain, no depth of woe,
No scheming, no contrivance,
 No subtle thing or great
Shall draw me from Your guidance
 Nor from You separate.

10 My heart with joy is springing;
 I am no longer sad.
My soul is filled with singing;
 Your sunshine makes me glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit
 Is Jesus Christ, my King;
The heav'n I shall inherit
 Makes me rejoice and sing.