

The Festival of the Reformation

Middle School · Student Edition

For the student: Read along, fill in the blanks, and write your answers on the lines. Your parent has the answers.

Step 1 Understand the Collect

Most collects follow a five-part pattern: the **address** (the One to whom we pray), the **reason** (what God has done or promised), the **petition** (what we ask), the **purpose** (what we hope will result), and the **ending** (the closing that names the Trinity).

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1. Mark each part of the collect. How is this collect built?

2. The collect asks to be kept steadfast in God's "grace *and* truth." Why both?

3. Which petitions show that the Church is under attack?

Step 2 Understand the Gospel

Read the Gospel on your own.

Matthew 11:12-19

12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. **13** For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, **14** and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. **15** He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

16 "But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, **17** 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' **18** For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' **19** The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

Also read. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:23-24)

1. Jesus says the kingdom "has suffered violence" (v. 12). What violence had John suffered?

2. What is Jesus' point with the children's game (vv. 16-17)?

3. People meant "friend of tax collectors and sinners" as an insult (v. 19). Why is it true and good?

4. What does "wisdom is justified by her deeds" (v. 19) mean?

Step 3 Find the Collect in the Gospel

1. Find at least two places where the collect's words appear in the Gospel. Explain each one.

2. Today's Epistle says, "For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law" (Romans 3:28). How does this verse explain why Jesus could be the friend of sinners?

Step 4 The Small Catechism

The Third Article. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the 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?** 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. 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. **In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.** On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Cross-reference. "Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people." (Revelation 14:6)

1. Luther says the Holy Spirit "daily and richly forgives all my sins." How does that match Romans 3:24?

2. Luther says, "I cannot by my own reason or strength believe." How does that fit Jesus' words about "this generation" (vv. 16-19)?

3. The collect asks God to keep us "steadfast." Which words in the Third Article say the same thing?

Think about it. What are we celebrating on Reformation Day? Read Revelation 14:6 and Romans 3:23-24 and be ready to talk about it.

Step 5 Wrap It All Up

1. Write a short collect of your own for this day. Use all five parts.

Pray today's collect together. Then answer:

2. What does Jesus do for you as the friend of sinners?
