



Daily Devotion



“You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe - and shudder!” James 2:19

“I believe in God; why do I need the church?” What would you say in response? The gentleman whom I heard speak these words wasn’t angry; he was just honestly saying how he felt in his heart. And in truth, he was voicing what lies within the hearts of many people today.

A similar statement was being said back in the days of Noah. “I believe in God; why do I need that ark?” Just like so many today, they did not understand how God delivers sinners. As He desired to bring them into the ark, so He brings us into the ark of His church. Within the church He gives poor sinners the gifts of Christ Jesus: forgiveness, life, and salvation. These gifts are continually given by the operation of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel in Word and in Sacrament. One who believes in God is grateful to Him for bringing him into the ark of His church.

In the Apostles’ Creed, we confess: *I believe in God*, and also, *I believe in the holy Christian Church*. To believe in one is to believe in the other. To deny one is to deny the other. The Apostle James tells us that even the demons believe in God; but He has not brought them into His church in order to deliver them. People today who say: “I believe in God; why do I need the church?” are, therefore, speaking the same language as that of the demons. God knows that we poor sinners do need His church. What a blessing, then, that He brings us in through Holy Baptism, and that He keeps us in His church through the hearing of the Gospel and the reception of the Sacrament.

Lord Jesus, You have built the ark of Your church for me. Thank You for rescuing me out of this dying world by bringing me to where Your Gospel is given to me in all of its richness. Amen.