PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

COURSE NO. TH320

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is the second of two courses introducing students to Christian doctrine. Students are invited to reflect theologically on the biblical narrative of God's gifts through the Spirit of the risen Christ, including justification, sanctification, vocation, the church, the sacraments, and the eschatological consummation of God's reign, as lifted up in the church's creedal confessions. Attention will be given to how God's being and work draw us into God's mission and give shape to faithful practices and ministry within particular cultural contexts.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the doctrines of the person and work of the Holy Spirit and of the gifts of God through the Spirit, including the church, worship, sacraments, Scripture and its interpretation, salvation, vocation, justification, sanctification, and eternal life in God's eschatological consummation of all things in Christ.
- 2. Demonstrate an awareness of how these doctrines are rooted in Scripture, confessed by the church, and witnessed in faithful communities today.
- 3. Narrate and reflect on their own Christian experience in relation to these doctrines and on how their experience has been shaped by their denominational traditions, by the wider Christian community, and by social contexts.
- 4. Reflect on the practices that open Christians and communities to the experience of the Holy Spirit in particular cultural contexts.

PREREQUISITES: CH01, CH02, TH210 (or with the instructor's permission)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

This course will be conducted as a seminar in which students build on previously acquired skills to read theological books, while integrating knowledge gained in other courses.

- John H. Armstrong, ed., Understanding four views on the Lord's Supper. Zondervan, 2007, ISBN: 978-0310262688, \$17.51
- Simon Chan, *Liturgical Theology: Understanding the Church as Worshipping Community*. IVP Academic Press, 2006, ISBN: 978-0830827633, \$22.89
- Samuel Yonas Deressa and Sarah Hinlickey Wilson, eds., *The Life, Works, and Witness of Tsehay Tolessa and Gudina Tumsa, The Ethiopian Bonhoeffer*. Fortress (Lutheran Quarterly Books), 2017, ISBN: 978-1506418483, \$39.00
- David L. Stubbs, *Table and Temple: The Christian Eucharist and Its Jewish Roots*. Eerdmans, 2020, ISBN: 978-0802874801, \$20.90
- William T. Cavanaugh, *The Uses of Idolatry*. Oxford University Press, 2024, ISBN: 978-0197679050, \$29.83

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Throughout the course students will work on a scaffolded project that helps them formulate an understanding of ecclesiology through the lens of the celebration of the eucharist (communion).

ATTENDANCE: Required.