



# The Creeds

## *Gathered Together in Unity*

St. Joseph's Episcopal Church | Christian Formation  
January 4, 2021



# COURSE NORMS

## JOIN FROM A QUIET PLACE

Be sure you can hear us, and that we can hear you by joining us from a room with a closed door, without the TV or another device on.

## MUTE YOUR MICROPHONE

Keeping your microphone muted when others are speaking helps reduce background noise and allows everyone to hear better.

## TURN ON YOUR CAMERA

Please turn on your camera, so that we can speak with each other and participate fully in this experience

## BE RESPECTFUL

Please be mindful of your fellow participants' feelings as we discuss topics integral to our faith.





# Agenda

Opening Prayer

Welcome

Discussion Topic

Reflection Questions



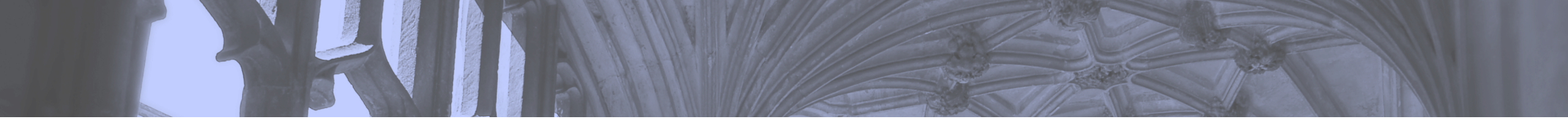
# Opening Prayer

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.





# The Creeds



# The Creeds

What is a creed?

A creed is the statement of fundamental beliefs.





# The Creeds

How many creeds do we use in the Episcopal Church?

Two: the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.

The Creed of St. Athanasius of Alexandria (BCP p. 864) is not used, but listed as a historical document.

How and when are they used?

The Nicene Creed is used following the sermon during services with the Holy Eucharist.

The Apostles' Creed is used during Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, for Baptisms, and for burials.



# The Apostles' Creed





# Apostles' Creed

- The Apostles' Creed is based on the **Old Roman Symbol** or **Old Roman Creed** dating as far back as the second century, approximately 150 and was used during baptisms.
- This creed uses I; it is a personal statement of faith. The beginning of the Baptismal Covenant is a question and answer form of the Apostles' Creed (p. 416).



# Apostles' Creed | Baptismal Covenant

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**





# Apostles' Creed | Baptismal Covenant

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.



# Apostles' Creed | Baptismal Covenant

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

catholic:  
universal, according to the  
whole





# Apostles' Creed

- The Apostles' Creed explains our role as Christians. We are followers of Jesus Christ, and as such, his hands on earth.

And Jesus came and said to them, “ All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” *Matthew 28:18-20*



# Apostles' Creed | Baptismal Covenant

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?



# Everything I have commanded you

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” *Matthew 22:34-40*





# Apostles' Creed | Baptismal Covenant

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?



# What beliefs does the Apostles' Creed state?

- Triune God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- Historical facts of Jesus' human life
- Virgin birth
- Forgiveness of sins



# The Nicene Creed





# The Nicene Creed

- The Nicene Creed was agreed upon in the fourth century during the First Council of Nicea in 325.

Theological disputes were dividing the early church so Roman Emperor Constantine gathered bishops and church leaders throughout the Empire (Europe, Mediterranean, Middle East, and Northern Africa) and had them meet in Nicea to resolve the issues, namely the issue of Jesus' divinity.









# The Nicene Creed

- A response to heretical teachings.
- Early theologians disputed whether Jesus was lesser than God: less divine and more human, or whether he was an equal part of God.





# The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is seen and unseen.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*  
All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life and light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:1-5



# The Nicene Creed

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.

Begotten, from beget  
Sire, to procreate as the father

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and  
the Word was God. All things  
came into being through him, and  
without him not one thing came  
into being. What has come into  
being in him was life, and the life  
and light of all people. The light  
shines in the darkness, and the  
darkness did not overcome it.  
*John 1:1-5*



# The Nicene Creed

For us and our salvation  
he came down from heaven:

Incarnate: to give bodily form to

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14





# The Nicene Creed

For us and our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

*Daniel 7:13-14*



# The Nicene Creed

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;

Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. *Hosea 6:1-2*



# The Nicene Creed

he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

And Jesus came and said to them, “ All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age.” *Matthew 28:18-20*





# Judgement

## The Rich Man and Lazarus

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’



# Judgement

But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'" *Luke 16:19-31*



# The Nicene Creed

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

catholic: universal,  
according to the  
whole

With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

apostolic: relating to  
the teachings of the  
Apostles

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Holy Spirit is worthy of worship as an integral part of the Holy Trinity





# What beliefs does the Nicene Creed state?

- Jesus' divinity as an equal part of the Holy Trinity
- Jesus' humanity as being born from the Virgin Mary
- Jesus' fulfillment of Prophecy
- Jesus' resurrection
- Baptism forgives sins
- God alone will judge us



# Questions for Reflection

Every Christian will struggle with parts of their faith at times. How does saying a creed help or hinder our struggle with faith?

What key beliefs do both creeds address and why is it important for these things to be in the creeds?

Reread the Apostles' Creed on page 96 and the Nicene Creed on page 358 of the Book of Common Prayer. Which creed do you prefer and why?



Next Week

The Bible | Written for Our  
Learning