

THE APOSTLES CREED

The Apostles Creed is a brief statement of our core beliefs as Christians. It is called the Apostle's Creed because our ancient traditions date the profession of our faith back to the Apostles themselves. It was created for the first time in Rome toward the end of the 2nd century.

Anyone who asked to be baptized was required to make this profession of faith before their entry into the church. This ensured that the new catechumens agreed with the core teachings of Christianity, before they were baptized.

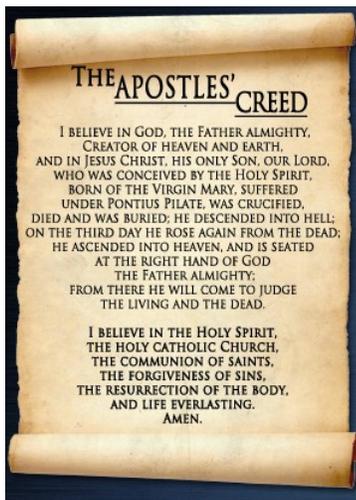
Even today, when we recite the Apostles Creed together, it is an affirmation of our agreement with the truths of Christianity contained in these words. The Apostles Creed is the foundation of our Christian faith, and is the first part that the Catechism of the Christian Church is founded on.

The following is taken from Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism, Edited by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States with Additional Notes For Students, Teachers, and Pastors by Edward W. A. Koehler D. D. Concordia Teachers Collage, River Forest, Ill.

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It is highly recommended that you obtain a copy of this publication from your local Christian book store to aid in home study for your Family



The Apostle's Creed

As the Head of the Family Should Teach It in a Simple Way to His or Her Household.

I Believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffer 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 quik and the dead. I

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

THE FIRST ARTICAL

CREATION

I Believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses and still preserves them; also clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods; that He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life; that he defends me against all danger, and guards and protects me from all evil; and all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which it is my duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

THE SECOND ARTICLE

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffer 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 quik and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe in 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 me from 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, that I may be 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.

THE THIRD ARTICLE

SANCTIFICATION

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and 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 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 daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers and will at the last day raise up me and all the dead, and give unto me and all believers in Christ eternal Life. This is most certainly true.