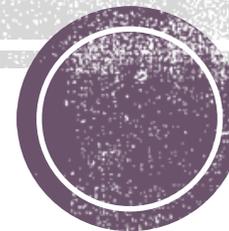


The Apostles' Creed



Theological Front-Matters

- What is a creed?
 - A creed is a statement of what we believe, teach, and confess.
- What we mean by saying, “I believe in God,” is that we trust Him and His promises; we accept as true all that He teaches in the Holy Scriptures.
- There are three creeds: The Apostles’, the Nicene, and the Athanasian.
- How does the Triune God make Himself known?
 - The existence of the world; the conscience; the Holy Scriptures.
- Who is He?
 - Spirit, eternal, unchangeable, almighty, omnipresent, holy, just, faithful, good, merciful, gracious, love. The only true God is the Triune God.



The First Article: God the Father



- Why do we call God “the Father”?
 - God is the Father of Jesus Christ, and also our Father through faith in Jesus.
 - Matt. 3:17;
 - Jn. 20:17; Gal. 3:26.
 - He is the Father of all people, because He created them.
 - Mal. 2:10
 - Eph. 3:14-15



Maker of Heaven and Earth

- He created all things in six days, out of nothing, and by His word.
 - Gen. 1:1; Ps. 33:6, 9
 - Heb. 11:3
- God created all things both visible and invisible:
 - The angels
 - Human beings and all creatures
- God created all things by His Word alone. Humanity He created specially, by forming us from the dust of the ground and giving us His breath as life.
- By faith we believe what the Word of God teaches about creation.



Still Takes Care of Me

- Man was originally created in the image of God. This means that Adam and Eve truly knew God as He wishes to be known and were perfectly happy. They were created righteous and holy and did God's will.
- However, since the Fall, that image has been lost in us. In Christians God has begun to restore His image, but it will only be fully restored in heaven.
- God still takes care of us, though. The entire universe is sustained by His wisdom and power. (Ps. 36:6; Ps. 147:4; Heb. 1:3)
 - He gives us all we need to support this body and life.
 - He defends us against all danger and evil.
- He does this all out of Fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness within us.



The Second Article: God the Son

- Here we confess our savior Jesus Christ, who is both God and man.
- Christ had to be man so He could fulfill the Law for us and die for our failure to keep the Law.
- Christ had to be God so that His death could be a sufficient payment for all of creation and so that He could rise from the dead.
- The Three-fold Office: Prophet, Priest, and King



Humility Exalted

- Christ's humiliation (Phil. 2:5-8) was that as man He did not use all of His divine power.
 - "Conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,"
 - Suffered under Pontius Pilate..."
- Christ's exaltation means that He now uses all of His divine power as God and man. (Phil. 2:9-11)
 - "He descended into hell..." (1 Peter 3)
 - "He ascended into heaven..."
- What does Christ's ascension mean for us?



- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, true God with the Father and the Son, and not just a power or energy.
- The work of the Holy Spirit is to bring us to faith in Christ.
 - “I believe that I cannot...”
 - The Holy Spirit also keeps us in the faith by working sanctification within us.
- The holy Christian church is the communion of the saints, the sum of all believers in Jesus Christ.
- We believe in the physical resurrection of the body.

The Third Article: God the Holy Spirit

