

The Nicene Creed (Explained)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth, of things visible and invisible.

When we, together, profess that God is our Father, we acknowledge that he is the source of all life and existence. All creation exists because of God. It is also important to note that we believe in ONE God, who is triune*.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the begotten of God the Father, the Only-begotten, that is of the essence of the Father. God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten and not made; of the very same nature of the Father, by Whom all things came into being, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.

Jesus Christ has a unique relationship with God the Father. He is the Son of God who is / is born from God the Father, the source of all life and existence. He is absolutely the same God, as God the Father.

Who for our humanity and for our salvation came down from heaven, was incarnate, was made human, was born perfectly of the holy virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit. By whom He took body, soul, and mind, and everything that is in man, truly and not in resemblance.

By becoming a real human and being physically present on earth, God the Son, Jesus Christ has given us the example of how to live in a way that reflects the fullness and beauty of God's original creation and intention for us. God the Son became incarnate, or took a human flesh/body to reconcile us with God the Father, or to restore the broken connection between Creator and Creation after the Fall. This restoration is our salvation!

He suffered, was crucified, was buried, rose again on the third day, ascended into heaven with the same body, and sat at the right hand of the Father.

All these events can be found in the Gospels and in the book of Acts, and clearly state what the Son of God had to go through to reconcile us with the Creator. To "sit at the right hand" means to share the same authority.

He is to come with the same body and with the glory of the Father, to judge the living and the dead; of His kingdom there is no end.

God the Son revealed to humanity the way to "reconnect" to the Creator. However, Jesus Christ will come back! At his second coming all humanity (living and dead) will be restored and "sorted out." Those who reconciled with God will reunite with the Creator, and that unity and order (His kingdom) will last forever.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, in the uncreated and the perfect; Who spoke through the Law, prophets, and Gospels; Who came down upon the Jordan, preached through the apostles, and lived in the Saints.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit streams (like a river from a source) from the Father and has the same authority/glorious as the Son. The Holy Spirit is



absolutely the same God, as God the Father and God the Son. Jesus Christ promised his disciples that they will receive an advocate (an advocate is supporter, backer, promoter, activist) after his return to the Father. Ten days after the Ascension of Jesus Christ, God the Holy Spirit came to be with us forever. The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts and minds of chosen leaders who gave the Law (Abraham, Moses), Prophets – the Messengers of God, Gospels – the Apostles and Evangelists, as he did through the early Christians and in our lives today.

We believe also in only One, Universal, Apostolic, and Holy Church.

One means that the Church is united/whole/one; Universal – global; Apostolic – as established by the Apostles and preserved authentic; Holy – sacred, since her Head, Jesus Christ, the Son of God is Holy.

In one baptism, in repentance for the remission and forgiveness of sins;

Baptism erases Original Sin (The Fall) and is the very first and most vital step in our journey to eternal life. (We can be baptized only once.) We believe that if we are sincerely sorry for not living up to the Creator's expectations, we can get restored (remission and forgiveness of sins) to the original creation through the Communion, which is the physical act of receiving/accepting the sacrificed body and blood of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

and in the resurrection of the dead,

We believe that God the Son will come back and restore/make alive all humanity that existed.

in the everlasting judgement of souls and bodies, and the Kingdom of Heaven, and in the everlasting life.

The final (i.e. everlasting) judgement is the process of sorting those who connected to God during their lifetime, and those who remained disconnected. For those who reconciled with God, they will exist forever in the presence of/with the Creator.

*The Bible and the Nicene Creed clearly speak of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, but emphasize that there is only ONE God.

If we were to use math, it would be $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$. God is a triune God.

Thus, the term "tri" meaning three, and "unity" meaning one, **tri+unity = Trinity**. It is a way of acknowledging what the Bible reveals to us about God, that God is three "Persons" who have the same essence, or simply, are absolutely the same God.

Some have tried to give an illustrative definition for the Trinity, such as water being fluid, ice and steam. Three distinguished forms, but the same water.

