

"The Apostles Creed"

It is the most popular creed used in worship by Western Christians. Its central doctrines are those of the Trinity and God the Creator. Legend has it that the Apostles wrote this creed on the tenth day after Christ's ascension into heaven. That is not the case, though the name stuck. However, each of the doctrines found in the creed can be traced to statements current in the apostolic period. The earliest written version of the creed is perhaps the Interrogatory Creed of Hippolytus (ca. A.D. 215). The current form is first found in the writings of Caesarius of Arles (d 542).

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit;
Born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate;
Was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into *hell**;
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven;
He is seated at the right hand of the Father;
And He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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. AMEN.**

* **Hell** - meaning the abode of the dead, not in a time of suffering, but in order that He might receive into His presence those saints of old who had died prior to His resurrection. (Job 38:17, Psalm 68:18-22; Matthew 12:38-41; Acts 2:22-32; Romans 10:7; Ephesians 4:7-10, 1 Peter 3:18-20, and 1 Peter 4:6)

** **Catholic** - from the Greek word *katholikai* meaning universal. We believe that we are united with believers throughout the world and are not separate unto ourselves either in communion of the Saints nor in participation in the true Body of Christ.