

**WE BELIEVE**

**A Lenten Series on The Nicene Creed**

## Week Two: A Walk through the Nicene Creed



## ***We believe in one God,***

- The importance of Community (“one Body”)
- “Believe in” vs. “Believe that”
- Credo: Believing as “setting our hearts on”
- Monotheism (Trinitarian)
- Involved in human history (meaning and purpose)

***the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,***



- “Abba”
- Sovereign (Henotheism)
- Creator

***of all that is, seen and unseen.***

- Spiritual reality
- “What is essential is invisible to the eye” (The Little Prince)

# ***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,***

- Lord—divine title
- Christ—“Messiah,” “Anointed one”
- Only Son of God—“only perfect image of the Father”;  
“shows us nature of God”: love (BCP 849)



**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.**

- He's eternal
- He's God, He's God, He's God
- He wasn't created
- Did I mention He's God?
- He's the same One who created everything.



# ***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:***

- Nature and Scope of “salvation”
- Kenoticism (omnipresence, omniscience, omnipotence);  
“emptied himself” (Philippians 2)

**Completely God**

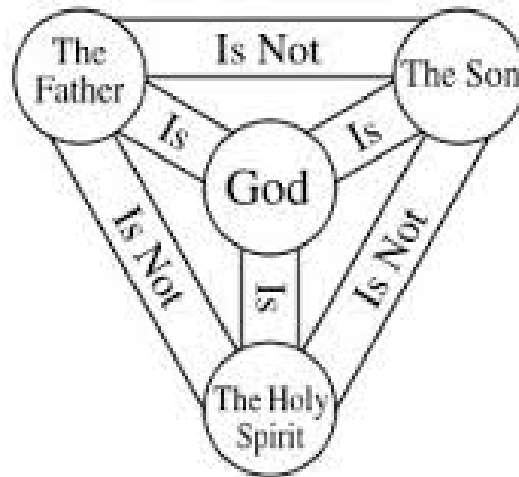
**Completely Man**





***by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.***

- Trinitarian—3 Persons, 1 Substance (BCP 867)
- Unique birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38)



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

- Nature, Scope of salvation
- Historical reference
- Revealing nature of God (“Suffering Servant”, Isaiah 53)
- Response to Gnosticism



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

- OT: Ps. 16:10, 49:15; Jonah 1:17
- NT: Mk. 16:6; Matt. 12:39-40 (“Canon” in mid-4th CE)



***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.***

- “Prize” for sacrifice (Phil 2:6-11; Is. 52:13-53:12)
- Authority (same)
- Establishment of new kingdom (Luke 21:27; Matt. 25:31-46)

***We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and  
glorified.***

- Trinitarian emphasis
- “Filioque” controversy (“and from the Son”)
- Split the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches in 1054 CE

## ***He has spoken through the Prophets***

- Validates work of the prophets, Scripture
- Notes work of Holy Spirit prior to NT times



## ***We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.***

- One: 1 Body, under 1 Head, Jesus Christ (Catechism, BCP 854);  
part of Eucharistic Prayers
- Holy: HS present and guiding members
- Catholic: “small c” (“universal”); proclaims the *whole* faith -  
to *all* people - to the *end of time*
- Apostolic: continuing in teaching and fellowship of the apostles,  
carrying out Christ’s mission to all people

# ***We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.***

- Immersion ("Drowning")—Death and Rebirth
- One v. Two (water + Spirit—Acts 8, 10) and exclusivity
- "Original sin," sins, and systemic sin (e.g., "isms")





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

- The “eschaton”
- “Eternal life starts now” (Buechner); “What is heaven like?” (child)

# Through a Child's Eyes

*I believe in God above  
I believe in Jesus' love  
I believe the Spirit, too,  
Comes to tell me what to do  
I believe that I can be  
Loving, faithful, Lord, like thee*



ANY  
QUESTIONS?

