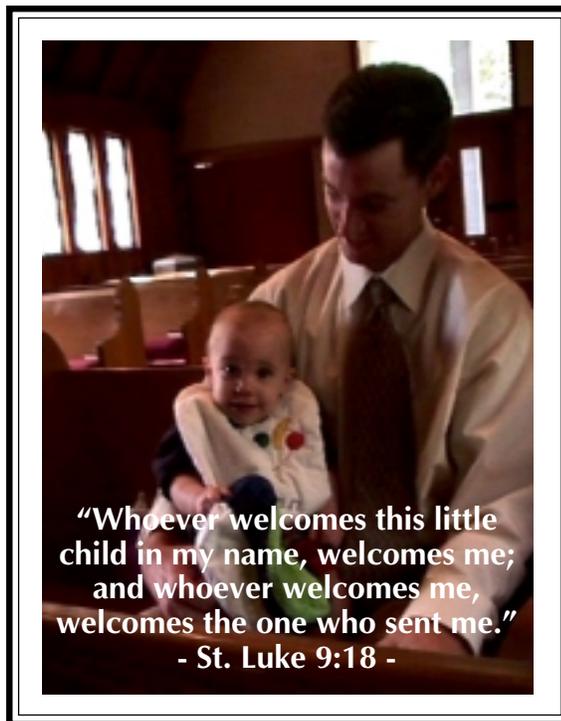


# A Catechism for our Children



for use in  
the families and parishes of  
the Reformed Episcopal Church

# A Catechism for our Children

1. Who made you?  
**God.**
2. What else did God make?  
**God made all things.**
3. Why did God make you and all things?  
**For his own glory.**
4. How can you glorify God?  
**By loving him and doing what he commands.**
5. Why ought you to glorify God?  
**Because he made me and takes care of me.**
6. Are there more gods than one?  
**There is only one God.**
7. In how many persons does this one God exist?  
**In three persons.**
8. What are they?  
**The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**
9. What is God?  
**God is a Spirit, and has not a body like men.**
10. Where is God?  
**God is everywhere.**
11. Can you see God?  
**No; I cannot see God, but he always sees me.**
12. Does God know all things?  
**Yes, nothing can be hid from God.**
13. Can God do all things?  
**Yes; God can do all his holy will.**
14. Where do you learn how to love and obey God?  
**In the Bible alone.**
15. Who wrote the Bible?  
**Holy men who were taught by the Holy Spirit.**
16. Who were our first parents?  
**Adam and Eve.**
17. Of what were our first parents made?  
**God made the body of Adam out of the ground, and formed Eve from the body of Adam.**
18. What did God give Adam and Eve besides bodies?  
**He gave them souls that could never die.**
19. Have you a soul as well as a body?  
**Yes; I have a soul that can never die.**
20. How do you know that you have a soul?  
**Because the Bible tells me so.**
21. In what condition did God make Adam and Eve?  
**He made them holy and happy.**
22. What is a covenant?  
**An binding agreement between two or more persons.**
23. What covenant did God make with Adam?  
**The covenant of works.**
24. What was Adam bound to do by the covenant of works?  
**To obey God perfectly.**
25. What did God promise in the covenant of works?  
**To reward Adam with life if he obeyed him.**
26. What did God threaten in the covenant of works?  
**To punish Adam with death if he disobeyed.**

27. Did Adam keep the covenant of works? No; he sinned against God.
28. What is sin? Sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, God's law.
29. What is meant by '*lack of conformity*'? Not being or doing all that God requires.
30. What is meant by *transgression*? Doing what God forbids.
31. What was the sin of our first parents? Eating the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
32. Who tempted them to this sin? The devil tempted Eve, and she ate, and gave the fruit to Adam, and he ate.
33. What happened to our first parents when they had sinned? Instead of being holy and happy, they became sinners, knowing misery and death.
34. Did Adam act for himself alone? No; he represented all mankind.
35. What effect had the sin of Adam on all mankind? All of us are born in a state of sin and misery.
36. What is the sinful condition which we inherit from Adam called? Original sin.
37. What does every sin deserve? The wrath and curse of God.
38. Can any one go to heaven with this sinful nature? No; our hearts must be changed before we can be fit for heaven.
39. What is a change of heart called? Salvation.
40. Who can change a sinner's heart? The Holy Spirit alone.
41. Can any one be saved through the covenant of works? None can be saved by works.
42. Why can none be saved by works? Because all have sinned by thought, word, and deed, and are condemned by it.
43. With whom did God the Father make the covenant of grace? With Christ, his eternal Son.
44. Whom did Christ represent in the covenant of grace? His chosen people.
45. What did Christ undertake in the covenant of grace? To keep the whole law for his people, and to suffer the punishment due to their sins.
46. Did our Lord Jesus Christ ever commit any sin? No; he was holy, harmless, and undefiled.
47. How could the Son of God suffer? Christ, the Son of God, became man that he might obey and suffer in our nature.
48. What is meant by the word '*Atonement*'? Christ's satisfying divine justice, by his sufferings and death, in the place of sinners.
49. What did God the Father undertake in the covenant of grace? To justify and sanctify those for whom Christ should die.
50. What is *justification*? It is the act of God, forgiving sinners and treating them as if they had never sinned.
51. What is *sanctification*? It is God's work in making sinners holy in heart and conduct.
52. For whom did Christ obey and suffer? For all those who are God's children.

53. What kind of life did Christ live on earth?  
A life of poverty and suffering.
54. What kind of death did Christ die?  
The painful and shameful death of the cross.
55. Who will be saved?  
All those who repent of sin, believe in Jesus Christ, and lead holy lives.
56. What is it to *repent*?  
To be sorry for sin, to forsake it, and to return to being obedient to God and His word.
57. What is it to *believe* or *have faith* in Christ?  
To trust in Christ alone for salvation.
58. Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power?  
No; I can do nothing good without the help of God's Holy Spirit.
59. How can you get the help of the Holy Spirit?  
God has told us that we must pray to him for the Holy Spirit.
60. How long ago is it since Christ died?  
Nearly two thousand years.
61. How were God's chosen people saved before the coming of Christ?  
By believing in the Saviour to come.
62. How did they show their faith?  
By offering sacrifices on God's altar.
63. What did these sacrifices represent?  
Jesus, the Lamb of God, who was to die for sinners.
64. What offices does Jesus have?  
Jesus has three offices.
65. What are they?  
The offices of a prophet, a priest, and a king.
66. How is Christ a prophet?  
Because he teaches us the will of God.
67. How is Christ a priest?  
Because he died for our sins and pleads with God for us.
68. How is Christ a king?  
Because he rules over us and defends us.
69. Why do you need Christ as a prophet?  
Because I am ignorant.
70. Why do you need Christ as a priest?  
Because I am guilty.
71. Why do you need Christ as a king?  
Because I am weak and helpless.
72. How many commandments did God give on Mount Sinai?  
Ten commandments.
73. What are the ten commandments sometimes called?  
*The Decalog*, meaning 'the Ten Words'.
74. What do the first four commandments teach?  
Our duty to God.
75. What do the last six commandments teach?  
Our duty to all around us.
76. What is the sum of the ten commandments?  
To love God with all my heart mind, and soul, and my neighbor as myself.
77. Who is your neighbor?  
Everyone near me is my neighbor.
78. Is God pleased with those who love and obey him?  
Yes; he says, "I love them that love me."  
(Proverbs 8:17)
79. Is God displeased with those who do not love and obey him?  
Yes; "God is angry with the wicked every day." (Psalm 7:11)

80. **What is the first commandment?**  
The first commandment is, ‘Thou shalt have no other gods before me.’
81. **What does the first commandment teach us?**  
To worship God alone.
82. **What is the second commandment?**  
The second commandment is, ‘Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I, the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.’
83. **What does the second commandment teach us?**  
To worship God properly, and to avoid idolatry.
84. **What is the third commandment?**  
The third commandment is, ‘Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.’
85. **What does the third commandment teach us?**  
To reverence God’s name, word, and works.
86. **What is the fourth commandment?**  
The fourth commandment is, ‘Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath Day, and hallowed it.’
87. **What does the fourth commandment teach us?**  
That one day in seven is devoted to and given to the Lord.
88. **On which day of the week do Christians gather for worship?**  
The first day of the week, called the Lord’s day.
89. **Why is it called the Lord’s day?**  
Because on that day Jesus rose from the dead.
90. **How should the Lord’s day be spent?**  
In the worship of God with His people; in prayer, in the reading and hearing of His Word, and at His Table.
91. **What is the fifth commandment?**  
The fifth commandment is, ‘Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.’
92. **What does the fifth commandment teach us?**  
To love and obey our parents, and all in authority.
93. **What is the sixth commandment?**  
The sixth commandment is, ‘Thou shalt do no murder.’
94. **What does the sixth commandment teach us?**  
To avoid angry passions, and care for the life God gives.
95. **What is the seventh commandment?**  
The seventh commandment is, ‘Thou shalt not commit adultery.’
96. **What does the seventh commandment teach us?**  
To be pure in heart, language, and conduct.
97. **What is the eighth commandment?**  
The eighth commandment is, ‘Thou shalt not steal.’

98. What does the eighth commandment teach us?  
To be honest and industrious.
99. What is the ninth commandment?  
The ninth commandment is, 'Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.'
100. What does the ninth commandment teach us?  
To always tell the truth, and to care for the good names of others.
101. What is the tenth commandment?  
The tenth commandment is, 'Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.'
102. What does the tenth commandment teach us?  
To be content with God's gifts to me.
103. Can any man keep these ten commandments perfectly?  
No mere man, since the fall of Adam, ever did or can keep the ten commandments perfectly.
104. Of what use are the ten commandments to us?  
They teach us our duty, and show our need of a Saviour.
105. What is prayer?  
Prayer is talking to God our Father; praising and thanking Him for all things, and asking for the things we need.
106. In whose name should we pray?  
In the name of Jesus Christ.
107. What has Christ given us to teach us how to pray?  
The Lord's Prayer.
108. Rehearse the Lord's Prayer.  
'Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.' (St. Matthew 6:9ff)
109. How many petitions are there in the Lord's Prayer?  
Six.
110. What is the first petition?  
'Hallowed be thy name.'
111. What do we pray for in the first petition?  
That God's name may be honored by us and all men.
112. What is the second petition?  
'Thy kingdom come.'
113. What do we pray for in the second petition?  
That the truth of God's Word would be believed and obeyed by all people on earth.
114. What is the third petition?  
'Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.'
115. What do we pray for in the third petition?  
That we on earth would serve God as the angels do in heaven.
116. What is the fourth petition?  
'Give us this day our daily bread.'
117. What do we pray for in the fourth petition?  
That God would give us all things needful for our bodies and souls.
118. What is the fifth petition?  
'And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

119. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?  
That God would pardon our sins for Christ's sake, and enable us to forgive those who have injured us.
120. What is the sixth petition?  
'And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.'
121. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?  
That God would keep us from sin.
122. What is the Church?  
The Church is the 'Body of Christ', the fellowship of all believers in Him.  
(1 Corinthians 12:27)
123. Who is the head of the Church?  
Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church.  
(Col. 1:18 & Eph. 5:23)
124. Who are the members of the Church?  
All baptized Christians are members of the Church. (Romans 12: 4-5, 1 Corinthians 6:15, 1 Corinthians 12:12)
125. What is a sacrament?  
An outward, visible sign of an inward, spiritual grace.
126. How many sacraments are there?  
Two.
127. What are they?  
Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
128. Who appointed these sacraments?  
The Lord Jesus Christ.
129. Why did Christ appoint these sacraments?  
To distinguish his disciples from the world, to comfort them, and give them grace.
130. What sign is used in baptism?  
Water, whether by sprinkling, pouring, or dipping.
131. What does this signify?  
That we are cleansed from sin by the blood of Christ.
132. In whose name are we baptized?  
In the name of the Trinity, the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
133. Who are to be baptized?  
Believers and their children.
134. Why should babies be baptized?  
Because they are the children of Christians, under God's covenant, and welcomed by God into the congregation of Christ.
135. Does Christ care for little children?  
Yes; for he says, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."  
(St. Mark 10:13)
136. To what does your baptism bind you?  
To be a true follower of Jesus Christ in His Church.
137. What is the Lord's Supper?  
The eating of bread and drinking of wine in remembrance of the death of our Lord, until He returns.
138. Why is bread used at the Lord's Supper?  
Because Jesus took bread, broke it, and said, "This is my body, given for you."  
(St. Luke 22:17-20)
139. Why is wine used as well?  
Because Jesus took the cup, and said, "This is my blood of the new Covenant."  
(1 Corinthians 11:23-32)
140. Who should partake of the Lord's Supper?  
All baptized Christians who are in favor with God and His Church.
141. What is the nature of the Church?  
In the Creeds it is called One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.
142. What is meant by the term "One"?  
The Church is "One" because it is one body under one Head (Jesus) and all Christians belong to it.

143. **What is meant by the term “Holy”?**  
The Church is Holy because it was called into being by Jesus, and because He died for it on the cross.
144. **What is meant by the term “Catholic”?**  
Catholic is a word that means “universal”. It means that Jesus intended the Church to be the same everywhere and always.
145. **Why then are their different Churches?**  
Our sinful nature and false the false teachings of men have caused divisions (called schism) in the Church.
146. **What is meant by the term “Apostolic”?**  
The Church is Apostolic because it follows in the teaching of the Apostles and because its ministers are descended from the Apostles.
147. **Who were the Apostles?**  
The Apostles were the original disciples of Jesus, plus the Apostle Paul, to whom he gave spiritual authority over His Church. (St. John 20:20)
148. **Do we have Apostles in the Church today?**  
No. Today the Church is served by the offices and ministry of Bishops, Presbyters, and Deacons.
149. **Did the risen Jesus give any other teachings to the Apostles before he returned to God the Father in Heaven?**  
Yes. He “opened their understanding” of all of the meanings of the Scriptures (St. Luke 24:44-46), He commanded them to preach the Gospel and repentance to all nations... (St. Luke 24:47), baptizing them in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost (St. Matthew 28:19), and He promised to be with them always. (St. Matthew 24:20)
150. **What are Bishops?**  
Bishops are the chief pastors of a group of churches, called a diocese. Bishops ordain Presbyters and Deacons, and they administer the rite of confirmation.
151. **How are men chosen to be bishops?**  
They are chosen, in prayer by the whole of the Church, and consecrated by at least three other bishops, who ask God to impart the Holy Spirit to the man “for the office and work of a bishop.”
152. **Who appointed the first Bishops?**  
The Apostles chose and set apart the first Bishops to serve as pastors of the Churches after they died.
153. **Can we have a church without Bishops?**  
We believe that Bishops, Presbyters and Deacons are the ancient and desirable form of ministry in Christ’s Church. We also believe that God, hears the prayers of all who call upon him in faith. Therefore, Christian bodies without Bishops are still our brothers and sisters in Christ.
154. **What is a Presbyter?**  
A Presbyter is the minister chosen by the Bishop and the people to be their local pastor.
155. **What are the duties of a Presbyter?**  
A Presbyter is ordained to preach the Word of God, to give spiritual direction to his flock, and to administer the Sacraments of the Lord’s Supper and Baptism under the supervision of the Bishop.
156. **What are the duties of a Deacon?**  
A Deacon is ordained to serve and assist the Presbyter in his duties under the supervision of Bishop .
157. **What is the “Priesthood of All Believers”?**  
According to the Bible, every Christian is a priest, called upon to offer himself, his soul and body as a living sacrifice” to God in praise and thanksgiving.
158. **What are the Creeds?**  
They are very old statements of the teaching of the Church. There are three Creeds: the Apostle’s Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed.

159. **What is the Apostle's Creed?**  
The Apostle's Creed is a very old statement of the Christian faith used at our baptism. It represents the teaching of the Apostles.
160. **What is the Nicene Creed?**  
It is an official statement of belief adopted by the early Church which is said before we go to the Table at the Lord's Supper.
161. **What is the Athanasian Creed.**  
It is an ancient and extended statement of the faith, used by the Church in making clear its true catholic nature.
162. **Do these Creeds teach anything not supported in the Bible?**  
No. These Creeds are short summaries of the teaching of the Bible.
163. **What are the Articles of Religion?**  
They are thirty-nine statements of belief and practice written by the Bishops of the Church of England at the time of the Reformation.
164. **What is the Church of England?**  
It is the ancient part of Christ's Church from which we have received our Bishops, our history, and our manner of worship.
165. **What was the Reformation?**  
Over 450 years ago, the Church freed itself from certain false teachings and superstitions and returned to the Bible as its final authority. The Churches who did so are called "reformed" Churches.
166. **Is "reformed" the opposite of "catholic"?**  
No. The reformed Churches sought to return to the most basic teachings of Holy Scripture and the uncorrupted practices of the historic Church. The word "catholic" means universal, and teaches us that Christ's Church is not bound by nation or culture, but is for all the world.
167. **Are the Creeds and the Articles of Religion more important than the Bible?**  
No. They must be in agreement with the Bible. Only God's Word contains all things necessary for salvation. It's teaching is final.
168. **Which came first, the Bible or the Church?**  
The Church came first, when God brought salvation of His people (Gen. 3:15). The Bible was written by holy men of God over time.
169. **Who decided which of these writings would become part of the Bible?**  
The Church, under the guidance of its bishops, recognized those books that God inspired, and placed them in a collection we know as the Bible.
171. **Does this mean that only the Bishops or the Church can tell us what the bible means?**  
No. The Bible can and should be read by all baptized Christians. But we recognize the teaching ministry of the Bishops and Presbyters as vital to the life of the Church.
172. **What authority did Jesus give to the Church in the Upper Room? (St. John 20:19-23)**  
He sent them into the world (St. John 20:21), He breathed the Holy Spirit into them, giving them new life in Christ. (St. John 20:22). He gave them authority over spiritual life of the Church. (St. John 20:23)
173. **Did Christ remain in the tomb after his crucifixion?**  
No. He rose from his tomb on the third day after his death.
174. **Where is Christ now?**  
At the right hand of God, interceding for sinners.
175. **Will he come again?**  
Yes. He will come again to judge the world.

176. Can we know when Jesus will return ?  
**No. Jesus said it is not for us to know. Only God the Father knows.** (Acts 1:6-7)  
**We should live each day as if Jesus is coming today.**
177. What becomes of us at death?  
**The body returns to dust, and the soul lives on forever.**
178. Will the bodies of the dead be raised to life again?  
**Yes; “the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised.”** (1 Corinthians 15:52)
179. What will become of the wicked in the day of judgment?  
**They shall be cast into hell forever.**
180. What is hell?  
**A place of dreadful and endless torment.**
181. What will become of Christians?  
**They live forever in heaven.**
182. What is heaven?  
**A glorious and happy place, where Christians worship and praise God forever.**

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### Bible Passages for Memorization

*The suggested course of memory is to permit the child and young adult to gain an appreciation for the context and flow of biblical passages. This is not an exhaustive list, but it offers a fair sampling of passages with which all Christians ought to be familiar.*

Genesis 1-2:1  
 Exodus 20:1-17  
 Psalms 1, 8, 19, 23, 24, 27, 67, 91, 95,  
 Psalms 100, 103, 104, 121, 126, 130, 150  
 Isaiah 40, 53  
 St. Matthew 18:15-20  
 St. Matthew 28  
 St. Mark 15:15-28  
 St. John 1:1-18; 3:1-21;  
 St. John 10:1-14, and 14:1-15  
 Romans 8, 12  
 Ephesians 2  
 1 John 1  
 Revelation 2-3

## A Simple Guide for Parents

Catechism is an ancient form of teaching. The word comes from two Greek words meaning *to teach by sound or word of mouth*. It is the instructor asking a question, and the students responding with the correct answer. Within the context of Christian faith, it has fallen to parents and pastors to instruct not only children, but adolescents and adults in the Christian Faith. The repetition of our Christian heritage is an important learning tool.

One also wants to understand that catechetical instruction is teaching with a longer view, and not something accomplished in a week or two. We deal with the students we have, and their abilities. Catechism should not be a grave burden, even if it is work. Taking a few questions a week will enable the parent, pastor, or instructor to go back over previous work as well without wearing the students out.

This catechism can be used by itself, or with Family Morning or Evening prayer. We have tested it within parish settings, in a nursery school, and in homes.

The questions begin simply, easily used for younger children. But it progresses to the matters promised by parents at the baptism of their children: the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and other things needful for their souls' salvation. Beyond that, there are important points of information as your children begin their participation in the life of the Reformed Episcopal Church. We want them to understand our Anglican heritage. We want them to understand that the structure of bishops, presbyters, and deacons in leadership is both biblical and desirable. After all, they are the leadership of the future of our Church.

We have also included a series of Scripture portions for memorization. Our desire is to see whole portions memorized and not simply single verses. Scripture tells us, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee." Psalm 119:11 We see Bible memory as an important part of catechesis.

There is also the matter of the Bible verses cited in the body of the Catechism. We encourage the teacher, whether parent or pastor, to look up the verses in the Bible during the catechesis showing the children how our Bibles are to be used. For older children, it might be wise to encourage them to locate the verses themselves. We encourage parents to provide a Bible for each of their children as soon as it is reasonable. Also, it may require a bit of time at the beginning teaching them the books of the Bible.

There may be words in the catechism unfamiliar to you. We encourage your preparation with a dictionary or a theological glossary. We also believe it is important for parents and their children to understand the Bible, its teaching through the stories of history in the Old and New Testaments. Specific book recommendations can be had from your pastor or bishop.

Finally, this Catechism is not an end in itself. Nor is it a substitute for the participation of the family in the worship of Almighty God regularly. It is a part of a much larger picture that will be painted for your children. They need to see the Church as the body of Christ, something in which they function and are important. They will see that first by your example, and then by the examples of those in your parish.

May God bless you and your family not only in the use of this Catechism, but as you grow in the grace and knowledge of God.

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Remember now thy  
Creator in the days of  
thy youth.

- *Ecclesiastes 12:1* -

## **The Eccumenical Creeds of the Church**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

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: Suffered 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 quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body: And the Life everlasting. Amen.

### **The Nicene Creed**

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God; Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man: And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried: And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures: And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father: And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets: And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the dead: And the Life of the world to come. Amen.



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