

# Faith Statement



Spirit

Jesus  
descended Pontius  
dead

heaven  
creator Virgin  
ascended body catholic  
buried Pilate right  
Christ holy

Father  
earth almighty Church sins  
died third Gods forgiveness  
Lord resurrection everlasting  
seated

Holy

God  
Son day  
life believe  
conceived saints suffered  
crucified living Amen  
Mary communion  
come rose

May 2020

## Faith Statement Guidebook

Here are a few steps to get you started in writing a faith statement:

1. Watch the daily video for a teaching on the Apostles' Creed.
2. Read through each article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning (from Luther's Small Catechism).
3. Read through the statements which follow and select two or three statements which are most important to you in understanding each article.
4. Summarize the statements in your own words.
5. Write down any questions you still have about God, Jesus and the Spirit.
6. Repeat steps 1-4 for each article (God, Jesus, Spirit).
7. Use the last page to write your statement, combining the statements from the previous pages and articles.
8. Finally, go to the website at the end of this packet to fill out our Faith Statement Form and click submit!

<https://www.firstlutherancr.org/conf-faith-state.html>

## **What is the Apostles' Creed?**

The Apostles' Creed (Latin: *Symbolum Apostolorum* or *Symbolum Apostolicum*), sometimes entitled *Symbol of the Apostles*, is an early statement of Christian belief—a creed or "symbol". It is widely used by a number of Christian denominations for both liturgical and catechetical purposes, most visibly by liturgical Churches of Western tradition, including the Roman Catholic Church, Lutheranism and Anglicanism. It is also used by Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists.

The Apostles' Creed is Trinitarian in structure with sections affirming belief in God the Father, Jesus Christ His Son and the Holy Spirit. The Apostles' Creed was based on Christian theological understanding of the Canonical gospels, the letters of the New Testament and to a lesser extent the Old Testament. Its basis appears to be the old Roman Creed known also as the Old Roman Symbol. (Wikipedia.com)

The Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed — are written documents. They originate from the earliest centuries of the Christian church's history, a time when theological and philosophical questions about the identity of Jesus were widely debated among Christians. All three creeds affirm that God is fully present in Jesus, that Jesus Christ is both God and human (not a semi-divine or superhuman creature that is neither). These three creeds are called ecumenical because they are all accepted and used by the overwhelming majority of the world's Christians. All three are affirmed in the Lutheran confessional writings and in the ELCA's governing documents. (ELCA.org)

# The Apostles' Creed

## The First Article.

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

*What does this mean?*

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my limbs, my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them; in addition thereto, clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and homestead, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods; that He provides me richly and daily with all that I need to support this body and life, protects me from all danger, and guards me and preserves me from all evil; and all this out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I owe it to Him to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

*Which of these statements are important to you?*

- God created everything that exists.
- God created variety and diversity in all of creation.
- People are made in God's image and can reflect God's characteristics in their lives.
- God is constantly working on my behalf and wants me to have a meaningful life.
- God is willing to go to great lengths to give me a full life.
- God listens to my prayers.
- God communicates to me through the Bible, in worship and by various signs and wonders.
- God works with imperfect people to bring about God's kingdom.
- God wants to have a personal relationship with me.
- Other statements about God: \_\_\_\_\_

*Summarize these beliefs in a sentence or two:*

*What questions do you have about God the Father?*

## The Second Article.

**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 to the dead.\*  
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 to judge the living and the dead.**

*What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won [delivered] me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, in order that I may be [wholly] His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

*Which of these statements are important to you about Jesus?*

- Jesus was the Son of God.
- Jesus was fully human and faced temptations like everybody else.
- Jesus lived the way God wants us all to live.
- I can learn from Jesus how to live a better, fuller life.
- Jesus performed miracles and healings when he walked the earth.
- Jesus still brings healing and wholeness to the lives of people today.
- Jesus promises that there is healing, restoration and forgiveness for me.
- Jesus' death and resurrection brings me back into a right relationship with God.
- Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, I can have eternal life today.
- Other statements about Jesus: \_\_\_\_\_

*Summarize these beliefs in a sentence or two:*

*What questions do you have about Jesus, Son of God?*

## The Third Article.

**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.**

*What does this mean?*

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith; even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He forgives daily and richly all sins to me and all believers, and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead, and will give to me and to all believers in Christ everlasting life. This is most certainly true.

*Which of these statements are important to you about the Holy Spirit?*

- The Holy Spirit guides me through life.
- The Holy Spirit encourages me to be closer to God.
- The Holy Spirit has given me gifts and abilities to share for the sake of others.
- The Church is the body of Christ in the world today.
- The Church is a collection of imperfect, forgiven people who follow Christ.
- Other statements about Holy Spirit: \_\_\_\_\_

*Summarize these statements about the Holy Spirit in a sentence or two:*

*What questions do you have about the Holy Spirit?*



**In your own words...**

Do your beliefs influence the way you live and act? Why or why not?

Would your life be different if you didn't believe? Why or why not?

We want you to take some time and look back over your answers in the preceding pages and begin to work on your statement of faith. Remember that it is the essence of your faith, not the totality of it.

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