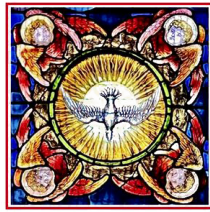


## CATECHETICAL CLASSES



## THE BASICS OF THE ORTHODOX FAITH

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

# The Orthodox Symbol of Faith

The Nicene (Nicene-Constantinopolitan) Creed is an essential expression of Christian belief formulated during the First Council of Nicaea in AD 325 and the First Council of Constantinople in AD 381. It serves as a unifying statement of faith for Orthodox Christians and summarizes key theological principles.

*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 Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. In one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

***I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.***

This opening dogma affirms monotheism, the belief in one God. It acknowledges God as the omnipotent (All-Powerful) Creator of everything, both seen (visible) and unseen (invisible), encompassing the entirety of existence.

*"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)*

*St. Athanasius: "There is one God who created everything by the Word." (Against the Heathen, 46)*

***And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made;***

This statement professes the divinity of Jesus Christ, affirming Him as the only Son of God, begotten not created, emphasizing His eternal existence. It asserts Jesus as "Light of Light" and "very God of very God," highlighting His divine nature and unity with God the Father. The phrase "by whom all things were made" recognizes Jesus as an active participant in the creation.

*"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him." (Colossians 1:16)*

*St. Athanasius: "The Son is the radiance of the Father's glory and the exact representation of his being." (On the Incarnation, 3)*

***Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and***

***was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures;***

This segment recounts the core events of Jesus' earthly life: His incarnation (becoming human), virgin birth, crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. It underscores His sacrificial role in humanity's salvation, fulfilling scriptural prophecies.

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."  
(John 1:14)*

*St. Ignatius of Antioch: "For our God, Jesus Christ, was conceived by Mary according to God's plan: of the seed of David, it is true, but also of the Holy Spirit." (Letter to the Ephesians, 18:2)*

***And ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; whose Kingdom shall have no end.***

It describes Jesus' ascension to heaven, His exalted position at God's right hand, and His future return in glory to judge the living and the dead. The eternal nature of His kingdom is also emphasized.

*"Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight." (Acts 1:9)*

*St. Augustine: "He ascended into heaven to show that he reigns over all."  
(City of God, 10.29)*

***And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.***

This affirms belief in the Holy Spirit, acknowledging Him as the giver of life who proceeds from the Father. It emphasizes the Holy Spirit's co-equal

status with the Father and the Son, deserving of the same worship and glory. The Holy Spirit's role in inspiring the prophets is also recognized.

*"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." (John 14:26)*

*St. Basil the Great: "Through the Holy Spirit comes our restoration to paradise, our ascension to the Kingdom of Heaven, our return to the adoption of sons." (On the Holy Spirit, 15.36)*

### ***In one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.***

This highlights the unity ("one"), sanctity ("holy"), universality ("catholic"), and apostolic foundation ("apostolic") of the Church. It signifies the Church as the body of believers rooted in apostolic teachings.

*"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling." (Ephesians 4:4)*

*St. Ignatius of Antioch: "Wherever the bishop appears, there let the congregation be; just as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church." (Letter to the Smyrnaeans, 8:2)*

### ***I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.***

It underscores the importance of baptism as a sacrament that cleanses sins and initiates individuals into the Christian faith.

*Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)*

*St. Gregory of Nazianzus: "Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift." (Oration on Holy Baptism, 40.3)*

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

The creed concludes with a declaration of hope in the resurrection of the dead and eternal life in the world to come, affirming the Christian belief in life after death.

*"For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (1 Corinthians 15:52)*

*St. John Chrysostom: "Let us then return from the table like lions breathing out fire, thus becoming terrifying to the Devil." (Homilies on Matthew, 82.4)*