

Brief overview of the two major Christian Creeds

1. INTRODUCTION

The creeds express the essence of the Christian faith. As such they have been part of our Church body since the early days of the early Church fathers. Below you will find a Greek, Latin, English and Dutch version of both the Apostle's and the Niceo-Constantinople creed.

1.1 Apostle's creed.

The apostle's creed has its origin as far back as the middle of the second century A.D (ca A.D. 180) although the latest revision may date as recent as the fourth century A.D. It finds its roots in the biblical traditions of the gospels and has a clear Trinitarian character. This was likely intended to counter some of Marcion's teachings, who denied that the God revealed in Christ Jesus was the same God as demonstrated in the Old Testament.

Its easy syntax and simple nature makes that this creed lends itself easily for catechesis, instruction for new converts or children, for which it has been traditionally used.

Tradition has it that the creed, since it contains twelve statements, was originally composed by the twelve apostles. No historical proof however exists that this is the cause. What we can demonstrate is that the early Christian Church did have a statement of belief that was widely accepted, became an integral part of the rite of baptism and found its origin in Rome.

For more detailed information, please visit: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01629a.htm>

1.2 Niceo-Constantinople creed

This creed is more commonly known as the Nicene creed and was the result of the Nicene council (A.D. 325) called for by emperor Constantine to refute the heretical teachings of Arian, who doubted the divinity of Christ. We do need to note that several changes and additions were made during the third ecumenical council in Constantinople (A.D. 381). Hence it would be more correct to call this creed the "Niceo-Constantinople" creed.

It has the same Trinitarian character and bears some clear influences from the early Church fathers such as Athanasius.

It needs to be noted that around the A.D. 600, the Roman-Catholic Church added the so-called "filioque" clause to the creed, which since then has been an item of discussion between the Roman-Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church. Hence it is placed in brackets in the creeds below.

Also, the term Catholic in the creeds, refers to "universal" and not to the institution of the Roman-Catholic church as we know it today

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2. GREEK

<i>Apostle's creed</i>	<i>Niceo-Constantinople creed</i>
<p>Πιστεύω εις Θεον Πατέρα, παντοκράτορα, ποιητην ουρανου και γης.</p> <p>Και (εις) Ἰησουν Χριστον, υἱον αυτου τον μονογενη, τον κύριον ἡμων, τον συλληθέντα εκ πνεύματος ἁγίου, γεννηθέντα εκ Μαρίας της παρθένου, παθόντα επι Ποντίου Πιλάτου, σταυρωθέντα, θανόντα, και ταφέντα, κατελθόντα εις τα κατώτατα, τη τρίτη ἡμέρα ἠαναστάντα ἄπο των νεκρων, ἠνεληθέντα εις τους ουρανοῦς, καθεζόμενον εν δεξια θεου πατρος παντο δυνάμου, εκειθεν ερχόμενον κρῖναι ζωντας και νεκρούς.</p> <p>Πιστεύω εις το Πνευμα το Ἅγιον, ἁγίαν καθολικην εκκλησίαν, ἁγίων κοινωνίαν, ἄφεσιν αμαρτιων, σαρκος ἀνάστασιν, ζωὴν αἰώνιον. Ἀμήν.</p>	<p>Πιστεύω εἰς ενα Θεόν, Πατέρα, παντοκράτορα, ποιητὴν ουρανοῦ καὶ γῆς, ορατῶν τε πάντων καὶ αοράτων.</p> <p>Καὶ εἰς ενα Κύριον, Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, τόν Υἱόν του Θεοῦ τόν μονογενή, τόν εκ του Πατρός γεννηθέντα πρό πάντων τῶν αἰῶνων. Φῶς εκ φωτός, Θεόν ἀληθινόν εκ Θεοῦ ἀληθινοῦ γεννηθέντα, οὐ ποιηθέντα, ὁμοούσιον τῷ Πατρί, δι' οὐ τὰ πάντα ἐγένετο. Τόν δι' ἡμᾶς τοὺς ἀνθρώπους καὶ διά τήν ἡμετέραν σωτηρίαν κατελθόντα εκ τῶν ουρανῶν καὶ σαρκωθέντα εκ Πνεύματος Ἁγίου καὶ Μαρίας τῆς Παρθένου καὶ ἐνανθρωπήσαντα.</p> <p>Σταυρωθέντα τε υπέρ ἡμῶν ἐπὶ Ποντίου Πιλάτου καὶ παθόντα καὶ ταφέντα.</p> <p>Καὶ ἀναστάντα τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ κατὰ τὰς Γραφάς.</p> <p>Καὶ ἀνεληθέντα εἰς τοὺς ουρανοῦς καὶ καθεζόμενον εκ δεξιῶν τοῦ Πατρός.</p> <p>Καὶ πάλιν ἐρχόμενον μετὰ δόξης κρῖναι ζῶντας καὶ νεκρούς, οὐ τῆς βασιλείας οὐκ ἐσται τέλος.</p> <p>Καὶ εἰς τό Πνεῦμα τό Ἅγιον, τό Κύριον, τό ζωοποιόν, τό εκ τοῦ Πατρός ἐκπορευόμενον, τό σύν Πατρί καὶ Υἱῷ συμπροσκυνούμενον καὶ συνδοξαζόμενον, τό λαλήσαν διά τῶν Προφητῶν.</p> <p>Εἰς μίαν, ἁγίαν, καθολικὴν καὶ ἀποστολικὴν Ἐκκλησίαν. Ὁμολογῶ ἐν βάπτισμα εἰς ἄφεσιν αμαρτιῶν. Προσδοκῶ ἀνάστασιν νεκρῶν. Καὶ ζωὴν τοῦ μέλλοντος αἰῶνος.</p> <p>Ἀμήν.</p>

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3. LATIN

Apostle's creed	Niceo-Constantinople creed
<p><i>Credo in Deum Patrem omnipotentem; Creatorem coeli et terrae.</i></p> <p><i>Et in Jesum Christum, Filium ejus unicum, Dominum nostrum; qui conceptus est de Spiritu Sancto, natus ex Maria virgine; passus sub Pontio Pilato, crucifixus, mortuus, et sepultus; descendit ad inferna; tertia die resurrexit a mortuis; ascendit ad coelos; sedet ad dexteram Dei Patris omnipotentis; inde venturus (est) iudicare vivos et mortuos.</i></p> <p><i>Credo in Spiritum Sanctum; sanctam ecclesiam catholicam; sanctorum communionem; remissionem peccatorum; carnis resurrectionem; vitam oeternam. Amen.</i></p>	<p><i>Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem, factorem caeli et terrae, visibilium omnium et invisibilium.</i></p> <p><i>Et in unum Dominum Iesum Christum, Filium Dei unigenitum, et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula. Deum de Deo, Lumen de Lumine, Deum verum de Deo vero, genitum non factum, consubstantialem Patri; per quem omnia facta sunt. Qui propter nos homines et propter nostram salutem descendit de caelis. Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine, et homo factus est. Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato, passus et sepultus est, et resurrexit tertia die, secundum Scripturas, et ascendit in caelum, sedet ad dexteram Patris. Et iterum venturus est cum gloria, iudicare vivos et mortuos, cuius regni non erit finis. Et in Spiritum Sanctum, Dominum et vivificantem, qui ex Patre [filioque] procedit. Qui cum Patre et Filio simul adoratur et conglorificatur: qui locutus est per prophetas. Et unam, sanctam, catholicam et apostolicam Ecclesiam. Confiteor unum baptisma in remissionem peccatorum. Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum, et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen.</i></p>

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4. ENGLISH

Apostle's creed	Niceo-Constantinople creed
<p><i>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.</i></p>	<p><i>We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten from the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; 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. 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. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.</i></p>

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5. NEDERLANDS

Apostle's creed	Niceo-Constantinople creed
<p><i>Ik geloof in God, de almachtige Vader, Schepper van hemel en aarde.</i></p> <p><i>En in Jezus Christus, zijn enige Zoon, onze Heer, die ontvangen is van de heilige Geest, geboren uit de maagd Maria, die geleden heeft onder Pontius Pilatus, is gekruisigd, gestorven en begraven, die nedergedaald is ter helle, de derde dag verrezen uit de doden die opgestegen is ten hemel, zit aan de rechterhand van God, de almachtige Vader, vandaar zal Hij komen oordelen de levenden en de doden.</i></p> <p><i>Ik geloof in de heilige Geest; De heilige katholieke kerk, De gemeenschap van de heiligen; De veriffenis van de zonden; De verrijzenis van het lichaam; en het eeuwig leven.</i></p> <p><i>Amen.</i></p>	<p><i>Ik geloof in één God, de almachtige Vader, Schepper van hemel en aarde, van al wat zichtbaar en onzichtbaar is.</i></p> <p><i>En in één Heer, Jezus Christus, eniggeboren Zoon van God, vóór alle tijden geboren uit de Vader.</i></p> <p><i>God uit God, licht uit licht, ware God uit de ware God. Geboren, niet geschapen, één in wezen met de Vader, en door wie alles geschapen is.</i></p> <p><i>Hij is voor ons, mensen, en omwille van ons heil uit de hemel neergedaald.</i></p> <p><i>Hij heeft het vlees aangenomen door de heilige Geest uit de Maagd Maria en is mens geworden.</i></p> <p><i>Hij werd voor ons gekruisigd, Hij heeft geleden onder Pontius Pilatus en is begraven.</i></p> <p><i>Hij is verrezen op de derde dag, volgens de Schriften.</i></p> <p><i>Hij is opgevaren ten hemel: zit aan de rechterhand van de Vader.</i></p> <p><i>Hij zal wederkomen in heerlijkheid om te oordelen levenden en doden en aan zijn rijk komt geen einde.</i></p> <p><i>Ik geloof in de heilige Geest die Heer is en het leven geeft die voortkomt uit de Vader [en de Zoon;] die met de Vader en de Zoon tezamen wordt aanbeden en verheerlijkt; die gesproken heeft door de profeten.</i></p> <p><i>Ik geloof in de ene, heilige, katholieke en apostolische kerk.</i></p> <p><i>Ik belijd één doopsel tot vergeving van de zonden.</i></p> <p><i>Ik verwacht de opstanding van de doden en het leven van het komend rijk.</i></p> <p><i>Amen</i></p>