

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*The Apostles' Creed is one of the most globally accepted summaries of the core doctrines of the Christian faith. Despite its common title, it was not written by the apostles themselves. While the final form of the creed was not established until at least the seventh century, most of the statements in the creed are found in some of the earliest Christian writings. The form of the creed evolved from an early form called the "rule of faith" that served as a short summary of orthodox Christian teaching, and version of this form commonly served as a confession of faith for people being baptized.*

See "[What Is the Apostles' Creed?](#)" for a quick overview of the creed's significance and meaning. See "[The History and Authority of the Apostles' Creed](#)" for a quick overview of the biblical basis for its statements and examples of early Christian writings that contained the core of its form.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ his 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 into hell.<sup>1</sup>  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he shall come to judge  
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,<sup>2</sup>  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> The word "hell" here means the place or state of the dead, not a place or state of punishment. The creed affirms that Jesus experienced the full reality of human death as his soul was severed from his dead body until his resurrection restored the full unity of his person. Thus, some Christian traditions translate this phrase as "he descended to the dead."

<sup>2</sup> The word "catholic" here means "universal," not Roman Catholic.