

The Apostles' Creed

[Latin](#) | [Greek](#) | [Traditional English](#) | [Modern English](#) | [Martin Luther on](#) | [Back](#)

The *Symbolum Apostolorum* was developed between the second and ninth centuries. It is the most popular creed used in worship by Western Christians. Its central doctrines are those of the Trinity and God the Creator.

Legend has it that the Apostles wrote this creed on the tenth day after Christ's ascension into heaven. That is not the case, though the name stuck. However, each of the doctrines found in the creed can be traced to statements current in the apostolic period. The earliest written version of the creed is perhaps the *Interrogatory Creed of Hippolytus* (ca. A.D. 215). The current form is first found in the writings of *Caesarius of Arles* (d 542).

The creed was apparently used as a summary of Christian doctrine for baptismal candidates in the churches of Rome. Hence it is also known as *The Roman Symbol*. As in Hippolytus' version it was given in question and answer format with the baptismal candidates answering in the affirmative that they believed each statement.

Latin Text (ca. A.D. 700)	Greek Text
<p>Credo in Deum Patrem omnipotentem; Creatorem coeli et terrae.</p> <p>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 iferna; teria die resurrexit a mortuis; ascendit ad coelos; sedt ad dexteram Dei Patris omnipotentis; inde venturus (est) judicare vivos et mortuos.</p> <p>Credo in Spiritum Sanctum; sanctam ecclesiam catholicam; sanctorum communionem; remissionem peccatorum; carnis resurrectionem; vitam oeteram. Amen.</p>	<p>Πιστεύω εις Θεον Πατέρα, παντοκράτορα, ποιητην ουρανου και γης.</p> <p>Και (εις) Ἰησουν Χριστον, υἱον αυτου τον μονογενη, τον κύριον ἡμων, τον συλληφθέντα εκ πνεύματος ἁγίου, γεννηθέντα εκ Μαρίας της παρθένου, παθόντα επι Ποντίου Πιλάτου, σταυρωθέντα, θανόντα, και ταφέντα, κατελθόντα εις τα κατώτατα, τη τρίτη ἡμέρα ἠναστάντα ἄπο των νεκρων, ἠνελθόντα εις τους ουρανοῦς, καθεζόμενον εν δεξια θεου πατρος παντο δυνάμου, εκειθεν ερχόμενον κρῖναι ζωντας και νεκροῦς.</p> <p>Πιστεύω εις το Πῦυμα το Ἄγιον, αγίαν καθολικην εκκλησίαν, αγίων κοινωνίαν, ἄφεσιν αμαρτιων, σαρκος ἀνάστασιν, ζωὴν αἰώνιον. Ἀμήν.</p>
	<p>Note: The Greek font used for the above text does not have a complete set of accents. If you do not see Greek at all perhaps your browser is not set up properly. See the following page. Viewing Greek text in Windows 95.</p>

Traditional English Version

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.

Modern English Version

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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 Potius 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 again to judge the living and the dead.

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.

Return to Creeds Page last revised: 11/14/97