

# So you have a problem with the Creed?

A romp through Nicea, Constantinople the Trinity, and Christian Belief

## May 17

- 1) What is the Creed? Where did it come from?
- 2) And why? *Stuff and Substance*, and Constantine's sword.
- 3) Anglicans, the Reformation, Ancient-Future Church
- 4) Getting into the Creed: the Three Persons and Language games

## May 31

- 1) The Trinity and the source of life
- 2) The oft-neglected Holy Spirit
- 3) The ecclesia and the sacred fellowship
- 4) A Creed for Bishops?  
What about for us regular people?

## Mike's Translation

We trust in one God, the parental sustainer of the world (*παντοκράτωρ pantokrator*), the maker of all that is seen and unseen.

And [*we trust*] in the one sovereign (*Κύριον Kyrion*), Jesus Christ, the only Son born (*γεννάω, gignao*) of God. Born before all time. Light out of light. True God out of true God. Born, not made. Of the *same stuff and substance* (*ὁμοούσιον homoousios*) of God (Πατρί, Patri), through whom all things were born, who for us humans and for our liberation, descended from heaven and became flesh of the Spirit and *the young woman* (*παρθένου, parthenou*) Mary and became human. He was hung on a tree<sup>1</sup> for us by Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. He rose up (*ἀνάστασις anastasis*) on the third day, *as it was written*. He ascended into heaven, and sat down on God's right hand. He will come back with glory to judge the living and the dead. Of the reign, there will be no end.

And [*we trust*] in the<sup>2</sup> Holy Spirit, the sovereign (*Κύριον Kyrion*) giver of life, brought out (*ἐκπορεύω*) of God [the Father], who with the *other two persons* [Father and Son/parent and child] is worshipped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets. [*We trust in*] in the holy fellowship<sup>3</sup> of all, we speak of one baptism for the *release of faults* (*ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν*). We wait and watch for the rising up (*ἀνάστασις anastasis*) of the dead, and the life of eternity. Amen

<sup>1</sup> For this admittedly poetic translation, I'm leaning toward James Cone's "the Cross and the Lynching Tree."

<sup>2</sup> The Holy Spirit is the only person not called "the one"

<sup>3</sup> For this translation of *ekklesia*, I am leaning on Mirabai Starr's work on translating Julian of Norwich. She never uses "church."

## Simone's Translation

We rely on one God, Author of every mighty action, Composer of sky and land And of everything seen and unseen.

And on one guardian, Jesus the Messiah,  
The son of God whose form is beyond gender,  
Who was called forth by the author before the beginning of time, Fire from fire, trustworthy God from trustworthy God, Called forth, not composed,  
Who is of the same character as the author, Because of whom everything took place /Who because of us humans and because of our safety/ Descended from the skies and became fleshy from the Pure Spirit, / And Mary the young woman and put on human nature, / And crucified for us before Pontius Pilate, And suffered and was buried, And was raised on the third day according to the writings/ And went up into the sky And took the seat at the right hand of the author, And will come once more with opinion  
To distinguish the living and the death  
Whose reign will never end.

And on the Pure Spirit, the guardian and composer of life, / Who marches forth from the author  
Who is worshipped and endowed with opinion as the author and child, / The one who spoke through the interpreters, / On one pure church, universal and sent out,  
We agree on one Baptism to forgive sins.  
We expect the dead ones to be raised and the life of the time to come.

## The Creed of Eusebius of Caesarea:

We believe in one only God, Father almighty, creator of things visible and invisible;

And in the Lord Jesus Christ, for he is the Word of God, God of God, light of light, life of life, his only Son, the first-born of all creatures, begotten of the Father before all time, by whom also everything was created, who became flesh for our redemption, who lived and suffered among men, rose again the third day, returned to the Father, and will come again one day in his glory to judge the quick and the dead.

We believe also in the Holy Ghost.

We believe that each of these three is and subsists; the Father truly as Father, the Son truly as Son, the Holy Ghost truly as Holy Ghost; as our Lord also said, when he sent his disciples to preach: 'Go and teach all nations, and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.'

## The Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten of his Father, of the substance of the Father, God of God, light of light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance (ὁμοούσιον) with the Father, by whom all things were made, both which be in heaven and in earth, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate and was made man. He suffered and the third day he rose again, and ascended into heaven. And he shall come again to judge both the quick and the dead.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit. And whosoever shall say that there was a time when the Son of God was not, or that before he was begotten he was not, or that he was made of things that were not, or that he is of a different substance or essence from the Father, or that he is a creature, or subject to change or conversion—all that so say, the Catholic and Apostolic Church anathematizes them.

## The Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed:

We 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 only begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, light of light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost and the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He 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 both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and 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.

And we believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

## The Apostles' Creed:

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 sits 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.