

A Memory Aid for The Apostles' Creed



And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42

The Apostles' Creed

“If all the thoughts contained in the Scriptures and belonging to the Creed were gathered together, there would be many more articles,...But to make it most clear and simple for reaching to children, we shall briefly sum up the entire Creed in three articles, according to the three persons of the Godhead, to whom all that we believe is related.”

“...I believe in God the Father, who created me; I believe in God the Son, who redeemed me; I believe in the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies me.’ One God and one faith, but three persons, and therefore three articles or confessions.”

Dr. Martin Luther, The Creed; Large Catechism

The First Article

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

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures;
that He has given me my body and soul,
eyes, ears, and all my members,
my reason and all my senses,
and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes,
food and drink,
house and home,
wife and children,
land, animals, and all I have.
He richly and daily provides me
with all that I need
to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger
and guards and protects me from all evil.
All this He does
only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy,
without any merit or worthiness in me.
For all this it is my duty
to thank and praise,
serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

The Second Article

And 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.
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 thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ,
true God,
begotten of the Father from all eternity,
and also true man,
born of the virgin Mary,
is my Lord,

who has redeemed me,
a lost and condemned person,
purchased and won me from all sins, from death,
and from the power of the devil;
not with gold or silver,
but with His holy, precious blood
and with His innocent suffering and death,

that I may be His own
and live under Him in His kingdom
and serve Him in everlasting righteousness,
innocence,
and blessedness,

just as He is risen from the dead,
lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

The Third Article

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength
believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him;
but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel,
enlightened me with His gifts,
sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way
He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies
the whole Christian Church on earth,
and keeps it with Jesus Christ
in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church
He daily and richly forgives all my sins
and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day
He will raise me and all the dead,
and give eternal life
to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.