

Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed, from Luther's *Small Catechism*

Do you believe in God, the Creator?

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

What does this mean?

I believe that God has created me, together with all that exists.

God has given me and still preserves my body and soul:
eyes, ears and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.

In addition, God daily and abundantly provides
shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm,
spouse and children, fields, livestock and all property—
along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life.

God protects me against all danger

and shields and preserves me from all evil.

***And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy,
without any merit or worthiness of mine at all!***

For all of this, I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son?

***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 Pontius 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 to judge the living and the dead.***

What does this mean?

***I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity,
and also a true human being, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.***

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being.

He has purchased and freed 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.***

He has done all this in order that I may belong to him,

live under him in his kingdom, and serve him

in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

just as he is risen from the dead, and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit?

***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.***

What does this mean?

I believe that by my own understanding or strength

I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him,

but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel,
enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy

and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers,

enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth

and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith.

***Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—
mine and those of all believers.***

On the last day, the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead
and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life.

This is most certainly true.