

## The Apostle's 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 Spirit, 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 at 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 Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Jesus is God's **Son**. Jesus is God's only Son. When Jesus' cousin John was with Him in the Jordan, God blessed Jesus as John was baptizing Him. (see Mark 1:9–11, John 3:16)

Jesus is **our Lord**. Both personally and the Lord of the Church. He is our Lord just as Lordship suggests. Often times we forget what ancient lordship means being in democratic society. It means ultimately that He has sovereign rule over everything in our lives and in the church. He is the head and we are His servants. (see John 20:24–29 and Philipians 2:9–11, Ephesians 5:22–24)

Jesus was **conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary**. Jesus' birth was a miracle. Not in the everyday use that we understand miracles. Often times we attribute the word miracle to things which are relatively normal or common. For example getting to school on time or a fourth quarter comeback to win the game. Jesus' birth was a true miracle. Something that happened only by total divine intervention. Jesus' mother Mary was not even married when she became pregnant. God created a child within her, and that child was our Lord and Savior. Mary was young and betrothed to marry a man named Joseph. Yet they were not married, therefore she was still a virgin. The idea of premarital sex in Jesus' time, in the Jewish community wasn't something that was prevalent like it is in today's society. (see Matthew 1:18–25)

Jesus **suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried**. Jesus was betrayed by His own people and taken to the Roman officer of

the region to be killed. Jesus was killed in one of the absolute worst ways possible. Hung on a cross where the weight of His own body slowly killed Him. He died there at Calvary. Joseph of Arimathea came and buried Him in a tomb cut out of stone. (see John 19:1-42)

Jesus did not descend into Hell. Unfortunately there is part of the Apostles' Creed that we don't totally ascribe to. There is little evidence that Jesus actually went to hell. This part of the Creed was added later and often unrecognized as truth.

Jesus **rose again from the dead** on the **third day**. Jesus was crucified on Friday. On Sunday morning, what we know as Easter, God raised Him from the dead. His resurrected body shone in glory to the point where until He revealed Himself, His own disciples didn't even recognize Him. (see Matthew 28:1-10)

Jesus **ascended into Heaven** and judging the world at God's right hand. After forty days on earth, Jesus, in the presence of His disciples, was taken up to Heaven to be with the Father. There he sits at God's right hand. Judging those who have died, and those who are living. He is the final judge of all people. (see Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:1-11, Revelation 20:11-15)