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## THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

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*Daily Devotion at Zion + August 9, 2020 AD + Pentecost Season*

### **This Week: the Creed**

Our Lord Jesus used memorized formulas all the time: “Truly, truly, I say to you.” “He who has ears to hear, let him listen!” “Blessed are . . . .” Such memorized recitation was essential to rabbinical teaching of the time.

It therefore comes as no surprise that His followers have followed His example through the centuries, developing simple formulas of faith called *creeds*. The word “creed” comes from the Latin word *credo*, or “I believe.” A creed is a simple summary of what the Church believes.

The Church has three major creeds: the Apostles’, the Nicene, and the Athanasian. The Apostles’ Creed developed very early in the Church, out of its practice of confessing the faith at Baptism. The Nicene Creed was composed in the late 300s A.D. as a further explication of Christ’s two natures, human and divine, as well as the Holy Spirit’s full nature and work. The Athanasian Creed, named after the great church leader Athanasius (d. 373 AD), was written around 500 A.D. to summarize the Church’s teaching on the Holy Trinity.

While the Nicene Creed is used in the public liturgy, and the Athanasian Creed on Trinity Sunday, the Apostles’ Creed is the creed most commonly used in prayer and devotion, giving homes and individuals a handy way of proclaiming the faith daily.

### **About the Cover Art**

*Some Christians in eastern countries (Greece, Romania, Russia, Syria) use highly-stylized icons in their worship, or paintings of sacred events and people in the life of the Church. This image shows eleven of the apostles (Judas Iscariot being absent) meeting Jesus after His resurrection. Notice that a few of the apostles are turned away, remembering that at first “some doubted” (Matthew 28:17). The angel recalls the angel who told the disciples to go and meet Jesus in Galilee (Mark 16:7). From the start, the apostles joined the prophets as “the foundation” of the Church (Ephesians 2:20).*

## Using the Creed

“Use the creed daily? Why?” We often think of confessing a creed as something that we only do “at church” as part of a public service. But remember: you are the Church, wherever you may be, and so the Church’s voice is your voice, whether “at church” or at home.

We may therefore use the creed (usually, the Apostles Creed, being the simplest) as a way of confessing our faith daily. It serves as a kind of mini-sermon, full of the promises of what God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit has done for you.

Memorization of the creed is helpful in this regard. You may speak it to yourself or with others in your household; some chant it to a simple psalm tone, as it can also act as a hymn of praise to God, recalling His mighty works. However you use it, it is yet another “seed” of the Word, planting God’s mercy in your heart.

### Daily Readings for the Week of August 16 (Pentecost 11)

<b>S</b>	Joshua 24:1-15 Acts 28:23-31 Mark 2:23-28	Acts 1:15-26 Matthew 27:55-66
<b>M</b>	Joshua 24:16-33 Romans 16:1-16 Matthew 27:24-31	<b>F</b> Judges 5:1-18 Acts 2:1-21 Matthew 28:1-10
<b>T</b>	Judges 2:1-5, 11-23 Romans 16:17-27 Matthew 27:32-44	<b>Sa</b> Judges 5:19-31 Acts 2:22-36 Matthew 28:11-30
<b>W</b>	Judges 3:12-30 Acts 1:1-14 Matthew 27:45-54	<i>These readings correspond to pages 359-393 in Volume IV of <b>For All the Saints</b>. To acquire <u>For All the Saints</u> or other devotionals, please contact the church office.</i>
<b>Th</b>	Judges 4:4-23	

## Is the Creed Biblical?

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

I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the  
power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered  
under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died,  
and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day  
he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of the Father.  
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

*Romans 10:10, Deuteronomy 6:4  
Matthew 6:9, Exodus 6:3  
Genesis 1:1, John 1:1*

*Romans 10:9  
John 3:16, 1 Corinthians 12:3*

} *Luke 1:34-35*

*1 Peter 3:18, Acts 3:18*

*Mark 15:25*

*John 19:15-18*

*John 19:1-3, Luke 23:53*

*1 Peter 3:19*

} *1 Corinthians 15:4*

*Acts 1:9*

} *Acts 7:55*

*Matthew 26:64, Acts 10:42, Mat-  
thew 3:12*

*John 14:26, Genesis 1:2*

*1 Peter 2:5, Galatians 3:28*

*2 Corinthians 1:1, Hebrews 12:1*

*Luke 24:47, John 20:23*

*1 Corinthians 15:35-49*

*Mark 10:29-30*

*Psalm 106:48*