

# *The Nicene Creed*

- *What is the Nicene Creed for Orthodox Christians?*
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*In the Orthodox Faith, the Nicene Creed stands for the Symbol of Faith. This means the statement of belief and the expression or confession of the faith. It is the traditional summary statement of the chief truths which our Church teaches and which all Orthodox Christians are required to believe.*



- *I believe in one God,  
Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven  
and earth and of all  
things visible and  
invisible.*

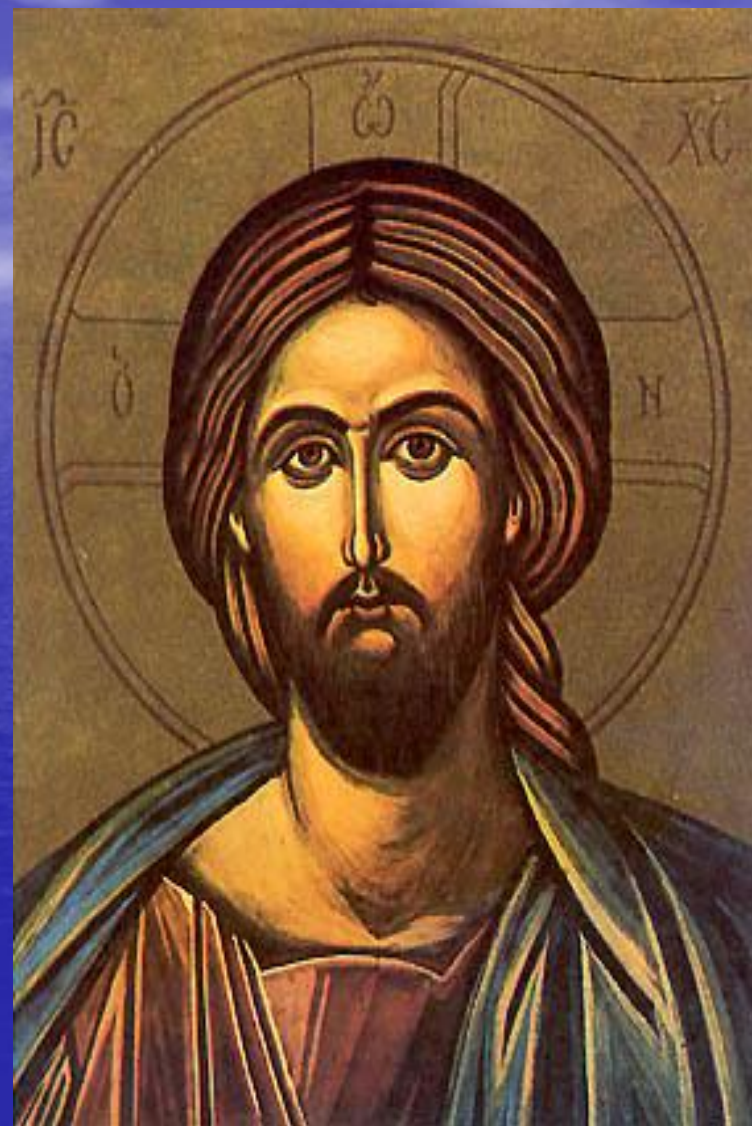




■ *In the Orthodox church, we believe that God is three divine Persons equal in all things, and share one and the same Divine nature and essence. (John 14:23) The origin of each of the three divine Persons of the Most Holy Trinity exists from all eternity and is uncreated: God the Father neither comes nor proceeds from any other person; God the Son comes from the Father; God the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father. All have no beginning nor end and are one God. (John 1:1, 1:14, 15:26. 1 John 4:9)*

■ *We believe that God made all things and that nothing can exist without God. The visible things, the material world and all the invisible things, those things which are not visible by the human eye but are the spiritual world that are hidden from our eyes.*

- *And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages.*





- *Jesus Christ is truly God. Jesus means Savior, salvation, deliverance, and as God, He came into the world to save men.*
- *Jesus is called “Lord” because He is truly Lord and rules all. He is the only Son of God and comes from the Father. There was never a time that He did not exist, just as God the Father has always existed.*



## *"The One Who is"*

- *Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not created, of one essence with the Father through Whom all things were made.*
- *Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36*

- *God the Father is the everlasting light and from God comes the Son of God (Jesus Christ), who is also the everlasting light.*

*God the Father and God the Son are one and the same everlasting light, unable to be divided and of one divine nature.*

*Therefore the Son of God is referred to as “God” in the same sense as God the Father is called God. He is the Son of God, coming from God and not a creation of God.*



- *Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.*



- *God created man in order for man to know, love, serve and glorify God. (Matthew 22:37) Man was to have been faithful and obedient to God, but he was easily tempted and disobeyed (Adam and Eve).*
- *God then “took on flesh” to become man, total humanity, without sin, but did not cease to be God. Jesus has two natures, the Son of God and the nature of God. He has a human and divine will.*
- *Mary became the “Mother of God” and she was ever-virgin: she remained a virgin before, during and after the birth of Jesus.*







- *He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried.*



- *The Church teaches us that Jesus suffered a physical suffering and death, not just a symbol of suffering and death. He did this to take on our own sinful nature and heal our sins through His voluntary death. He suffered and died in His human nature, and not in His Holy Divinity, for Divinity cannot die. God died in His human flesh. He did this to “deliver us from sin and to give us life. He did this of His own free will. (1 Peter 2:24)*

- *And He rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures.*





- *Jesus died and rose from the dead. His suffering and death has brought us salvation and that we may share in His resurrection. He has given us a way to enter into Paradise. Jesus died and His earthly body was in the tomb, but His soul was in hell and in Paradise with the thief (remember me when You comest into Your Kingdom). He was on the throne of Heaven with His Father and the Holy Spirit.*





- *He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

- *Jesus ascended to Heaven on the fortieth day after His resurrection. This is called Ascension Day. Jesus ascended to Heaven in His humanity, because His divinity always was and is in Heaven. Jesus, as God, is equal to the Father in all things. Jesus, in His Humanity has brought human nature into Heaven.*





*– And He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; His kingdom shall have no end.*





- *When Jesus came to us the first time, He came in great humility and suffered for us to bring us entry into the Kingdom of Heaven.*  
*The second time Jesus comes to us, it will be in glory to judge all our deeds. Not only those of us who will be living, but those of us who have died. God will judge us through every word, deed or thought we've ever done or had. If we are truly repentant, God will grant us His forgiveness.*





*And in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the Creator of  
life, Who proceeds from  
the Father, Who  
together with the Father  
and the Son is  
worshipped and  
glorified, Who spoke  
through the prophets.*



- *The Holy Spirit is one of the natures of the Most Holy Trinity.*

*Because of this the Holy Spirit is called the Lord, just as God the Father and God the Son. They are all one and the same. The Holy Spirit proceeds from God the Father. (2 Corinthians 3:17; Acts 4:26, 2:36)*

- *The Holy Spirit inspired the prophets of the Old Testament and also Christ's disciples. The Holy Spirit came to them in the form of tongues of fire on the Pentecost, which is fifty days after Pascha (Passover). (1 Peter 1:10-12; Acts 2:1-4)*



*In one, holy, catholic,  
and apostolic Church.*



- *When we speak of “one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church”, we refer to the Church as the Body of Christ. Our Church believes in the same teachings, holy sacraments and the following of all that Jesus taught and that these beliefs came to us from Apostolic succession. The Apostles brought these teachings straight from the lessons that Jesus taught them during His time on Earth. Our Church is One; it is Holy; it is Catholic (whole, pure, complete, universal, and truth); it is Apostolic, faithful to the teachings of Christ coming to us right from the Apostles.*





- *I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.*





- *Our Church teaches that our baptism into the Orthodox Faith is the seal of faith in the New Testament and that we come into complete communion with God. Our baptism cleanses us from sin so that we may become Christians and therefore, able to have eternal salvation and be joined to Christ. Our baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is necessary for our salvation. Immersion in water three times, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is essential to the administration of baptism in the Orthodox Faith.*



- *I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come. Amen.*





- *This refers to the time when the Lord comes again, when the dead will resurrect, which can only be done through the almighty power of God. It is written that the bodies of the dead shall rise and be clothed in bodies glorified and immortal. The bodies of the living will be changed and become pure and sinless at this time. The bodies of those who are righteous will be in light and rest and the bodies of the evil will be in torment.*
- *The life of the world to come refers to the everlasting life we shall see when we are deemed worthy during the second coming of the Lord. We will see God face to face and be glorified in His light. This will bring us to eternal happiness and togetherness with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*