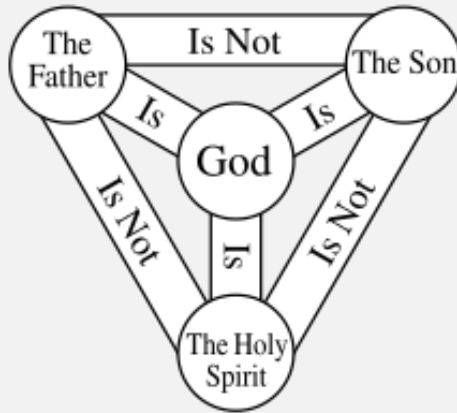


The Holy Trinity – 2022

Saturday, 6/11 at 4:00 | Sunday, 6/12 at 9:00

The Athanasian Creed



Introduction: Today we remember and celebrate the Holy Trinity! Holding to the truth is important: Jesus said: “Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (John 18:37 NAU). That means we are **open** to **listen to**, **understand**, **believe**, and **apply God’s word**!

Creds are statements of what we believe, teach, and confess:

- The Apostles’ Creed – *often used for Baptism.*
- The Nicene Creed – *often used for the Lord’s Supper.*
- The Athanasian Creed – *used to understand The Holy Trinity.*

Creds are not always logical, *but they are **Biblical**, so they are **true**!*

This sermon includes **10 key points** related to the Athanasian Creed.

Part 1 of 3: The Amazing Relationship within the Holy Trinity!

(1-4) Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith. Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally. And the catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance. // **(1)** The catholic faith: Not Roman Catholic, but the one true faith (John 3:16; 6:47), which is trusting in Jesus and His work for eternal life!

(5-6) For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another. But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. //

(2) Logically God must be three **OR** one, but *through the Bible* and *our God-given faith*, we believe **God is 3-IN-1!** Three Persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, yet One God! Each Person is ♦worthy of honor, ♦full of power, and ♦existing together in eternity.

(7-18) Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit. The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, and the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal. And yet they are not three Eternals but one Eternal, just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinities but one Uncreated and one Infinite. In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty; and yet they are not three Almightyies but one Almighty. So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God; and yet they are not three Gods, but one God. So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, and the Holy Spirit is Lord; and yet they are not three Lords but one Lord. // (3) None of the Three Persons ♦are created **or** ♦can be limited. Each Person is eternal, each Person is almighty, each Person is God, and each Person is Lord, yet, *in each case*, **NOT 3 BUT 1**. Something more practical!: God's power is unlimited: "...with God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26 NAU). God invites us to cast all our anxiety on Him (1 Pet. 5:7) – **wonderful!**; but all who continue without repentance – **horrible** (Heb. 10:26-27). → **Creed Confession: LSB 319, 1-18**

HYMN: *God Loved the World So That He Gave*

Part 2 of 3: *The Equality and Unity of the Holy Trinity!*

(19) Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so we are also prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords. //

(4) **3-IN-1** is *beyond our comprehension*; we believe in **God** the F, **God** the S, and **God** the HS, yet NOT 3 Gods, BUT 1 God! Why? Because God has revealed Himself to us in His word as **3-IN-1**.

(20-23) The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone. The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father

alone. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding. Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits. // (5) What is God's origin? **He has always existed!** No Person of the Godhead was created. To distinguish the Three Persons, *the Son was begotten of the Father*, that means He was of one substance with the Father (Nicene Creed), (*we were not begotten, but adopted – Gal. 4:5*); and *the HS proceeds from both the Father and the Son (John 14:16-17; 16:7).*

(24-26) And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another; but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped. Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity. // (6) In our limited way of thinking, we tend to put the **F first**, the **S second**, and the **HS third**, yet God has not revealed Himself in such ways. When it comes to the truth, Jesus did **NOT** say: repent and understand! **BUT** He did say: repent and believe! No one has figured God out; instead, God has revealed Himself to us by His Spirit through His word! *The three creeds beautifully summarize what God has revealed!* ➔ **Creed Confession: LSB 319-320, 19-26**

HYMN: *God Loved the World So That He Gave*

Part 3 of 3: *Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Saving Work!*

(27-31) But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man. He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father, before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity. // (7) The incarnation is when the Son of God – *from eternity*, put on flesh from the Virgin Mary. Beginning then and continuing forever, *He is both God and Man*. Since we have flesh and blood, He put on flesh and blood to

live and die as our sinless substitute (Heb. 2:14). As God, He is equal with the Father, as Man, He is less than the Father.

(32-34) Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God; one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person. // **(8)** A man did not put on God, *but God put on Man*. The Son of God “emptied Himself... being made in the likeness of men” (Phil. 2:7). God and Man were NOT mixed to make one Christ; instead, the one Christ remains both God and Man.

(35-37) For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ, who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead. // **(9)** Jesus did everything necessary to save us: He ♦bore our punishment, ♦laid down His life, ♦was raised to life, ♦proclaimed His victory, ♦ascended to reign, and ♦will return for the final judgment.

(38-40) At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds. And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire. This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved. // **(10)** When Jesus returns, *He will raise everyone (Acts 24:15b-16) – “those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment” (Jn. 5:28 NAU). The Bible is clear: For a deed to be good in God’s sight, *it must come from faith (Rom. 14:23b; Heb. 11:6)*. When we have God-given faith in Jesus for eternal life, *the evidence of good deeds will show in our lives!**

Let Us Pray: F, S, and HS, You are *so awesome and so powerful, yet so loving and so kind*; help us to always keep trusting You, living in repentance, and doing Your will!

➔ **Creed Confession: LSB 320, 27-40**

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