

God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

From the very beginning of the Scriptures, the work of the Triune God is evident. Can you spot the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity in these very first verses of the Bible? (For a hint: see John 1:1)

Matthew 3:13-17.

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The Baptism of Our Lord shows us how the Triune God works together for our good.

Why does Jesus come to be baptized if He is not a sinner?

What does it mean that Jesus "fulfills all righteousness?"

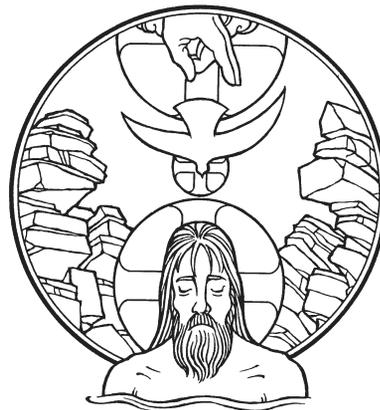
Why does the Holy Spirit descend as a dove? Where else have we seen doves in the Scriptures?

What does the Father say about His Son?

How do all these things that the Holy Trinity does at Jesus' Baptism become yours? (Hint: Make the sign of the cross and say..."In the name...")

Dust Off Your Catechism

A Review of the Six Chief Parts of the Christian Faith



The Second Chief Part: The Apostles' Creed

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Opening Hymn: 953/954

The Apostles' 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, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Where is the Creed found in the Bible?

What are the three Creeds the church confesses:

How many Gods are there? How many Persons? How do we describe this Tri-Unity?

What did the Son do that the Father and Holy Spirit did not?

The *Large Catechism* (Concordia 406.5-6) on the True God:

These articles of the Creed, therefore, divide and separate us Christians from all other people on earth. Even if all people outside Christianity—whether heathen, Turks, Jews, or false Christians and hypocrites—believe in and worship one true God, they still do not know what His mind toward them is and cannot expect any love or blessing from Him. Therefore, they abide in eternal wrath damnation. For they do not have the Lord Christ, and, besides, are not illumined and favored by

any gifts of the Holy Spirit [1 Corinthians 2:9-16; Hebrews 6:4-6].

How does the Creed set Christians apart from all other people on earth?

What do we say to people who say, "All religions worship the same God." or "Jews, Muslims and Christians all worship the True God?"

Why can't non-Christians worship the True God?

From this you see that the Creed is a doctrine quite different from the Ten Commandments. For the Commandments teach what we ought to do. But the Creed tells what God does for us and gives to us. Furthermore, apart from this, the Ten Commandments are written in all people's hearts [Romans 2:15]. However, no human wisdom can understand the Creed. It must be taught by the Holy Spirit alone [1 Corinthians 2:12]. *The teaching of the Ten Commandments, therefore, makes no Christian.* For God's wrath and displeasure abide upon us still, because we cannot keep what God demands of us. But the Creed brings pure grace and makes us godly and acceptable to God.

How is the Creed different from the Ten Commandments?

Who is the subject of the commandments? Who is the subject of the Creed?

How would you respond to someone who says, "Religion is all about how you live your life." or "Being a Christian means trying to keep the Ten Commandments?"

Genesis 1:1-3

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of