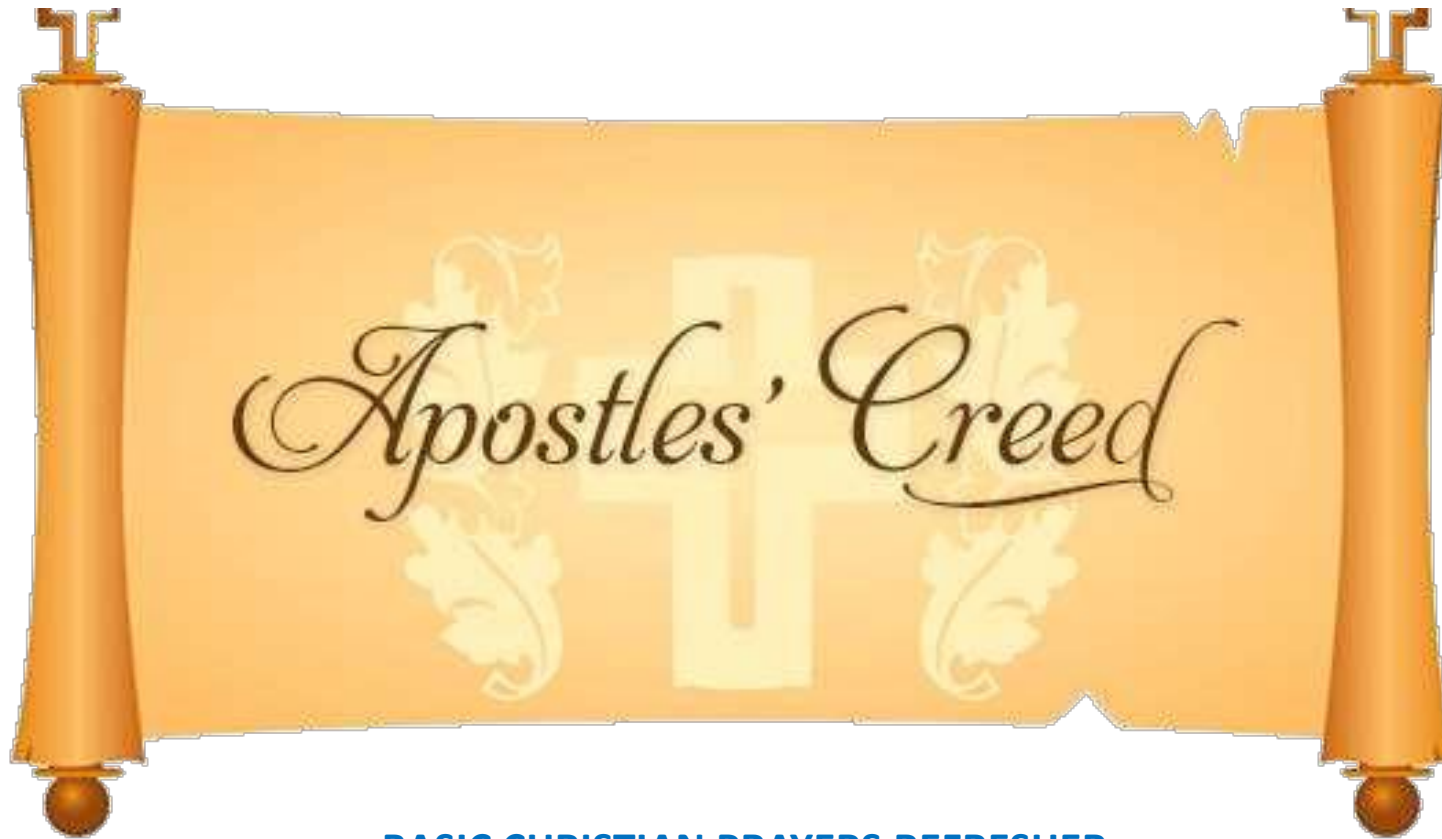
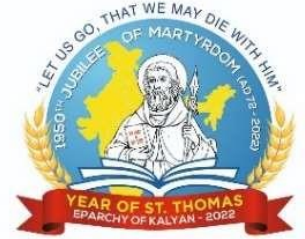


# **Covenant Keepers**

## **Lesson 16**

Basic Christian Prayers:  
Apostles Creed with 8 articles



**BASIC CHRISTIAN PRAYERS REFRESHER**  
**Department of Catechesis**

First Article : 'I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth'

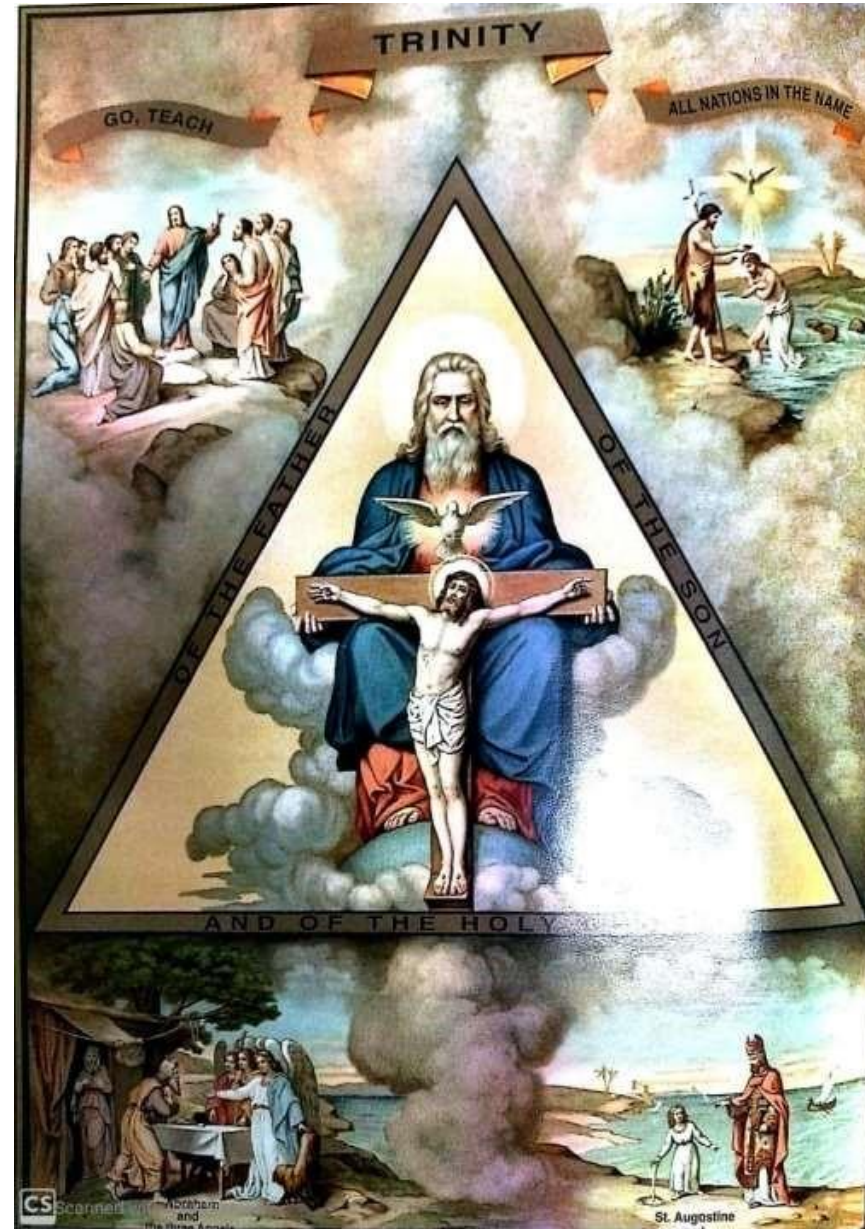
- The Triangle in the middle represents *the Holy Trinity* – God the father is seated with his son Jesus on the cross and in between the Holy Spirit radiating light.

- [Top left](#) shows Jesus, before ascending into heaven, instructing his apostles with the *mission to teach all nations*
- [Top right](#) shows *Jesus being baptized* showing the Holy Spirit and the presence of God the Father
- [Bottom left](#) shows Abraham *speaking to three angels as if to only one person* 'Lord, if I find favour in your sight, pass not away from thy servant' – he addressed 3 persons as one God.
- [Bottom right](#) shows story of **St. Augustine and the child**. Child is trying to empty the sea into a hole on the beach. St. Augustine is unable to understand – the child says, Mystery of Holy Trinity is similar – can't fully understand. Then *the child vanishes*. It was an angel.

First Article (continued) : 'I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth'

### Six days of Creation:

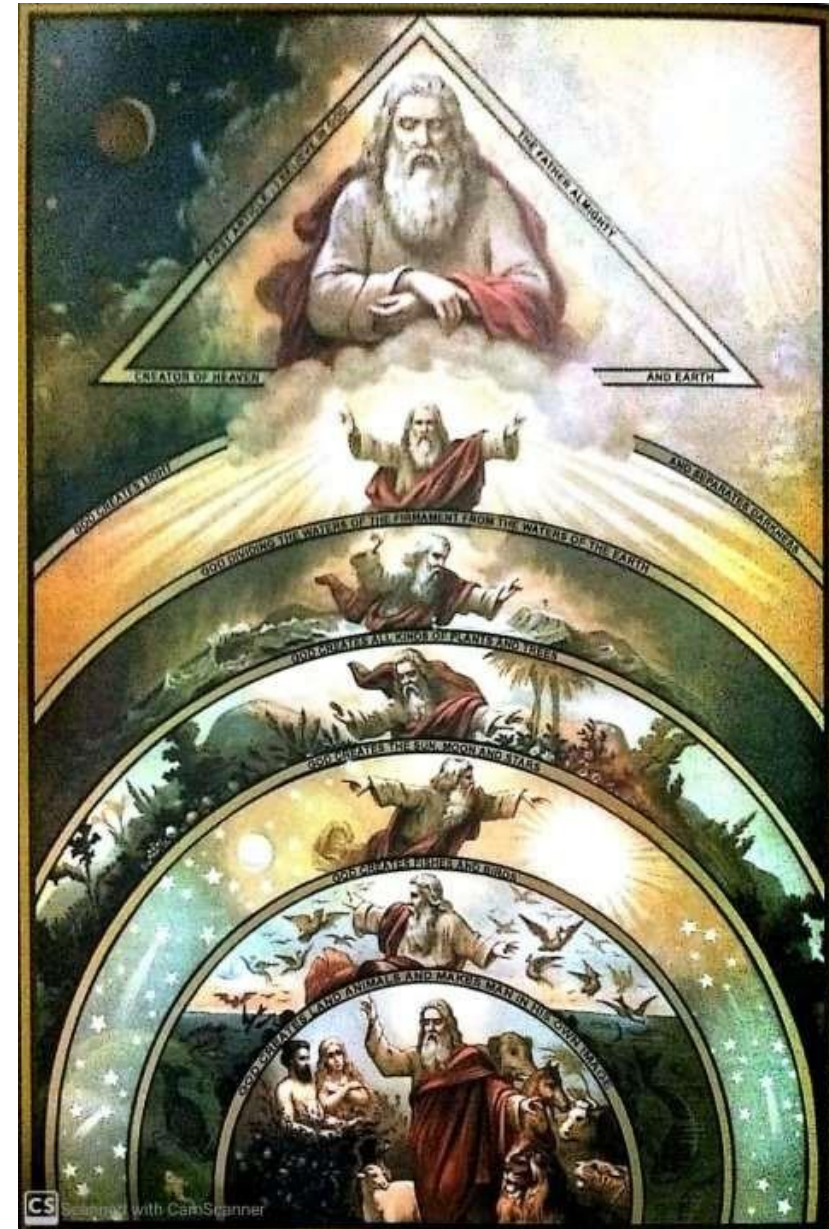
- First circle shows first day's work, *God creates Light*

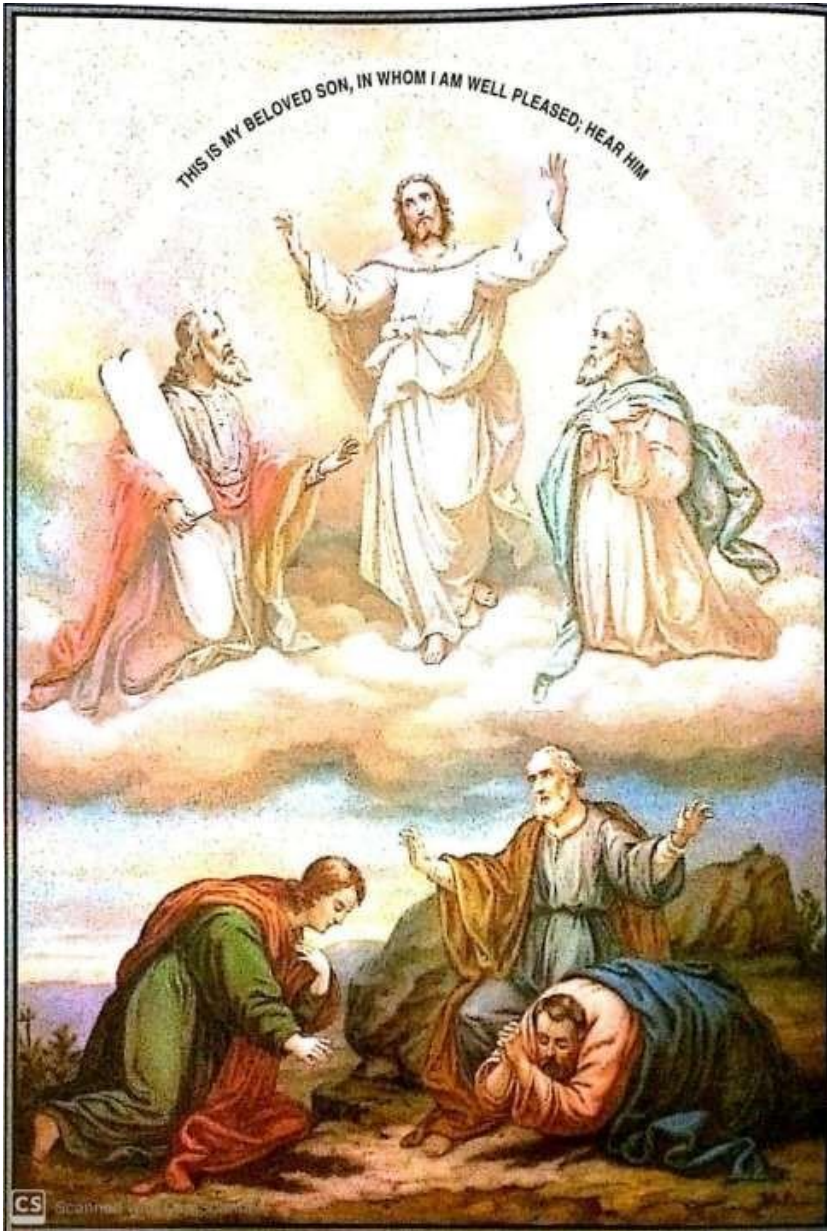


- Second day shows, God creating *Land and Water*
- Third day shows, God creating *plants*
- Fourth day shows, God creating the *Sun, the moon and the stars*
- Fifth day shows, God creating the *birds in the air and fish in the sea*
- Sixth day shows, God creating *animals on land and man in his own likeness*
- Seventh day, on top, *God resting* (symbolised with veiled sun and moon) and consecrating to his own service.

Second Article : 'I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord'

The Transfiguration:





- **Miracle of Transfiguration** where God the Father proclaimed *Jesus Christ to be his Son*

- Jesus, having taken with him to the top of Mount Tabor 3 of his disciples, Peter, James and John, was suddenly transfigured in front of them. *His face was shining like the Sun and his garments like snow.*

- In the picture we see **Moses and Elias talking to Him in front of his disciples**. From a *bright cloud that covered them a voice was heard saying* 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased : Hear ye Him'

Third Article : 'He was conceived by the Holy Spirit' The mystery of Incarnation:

- **Miracle of Incarnation** where the *Son of God became man* by taking to himself a body and soul like ours *in the womb of the Virgin Mary, his mother, through the miracle of Holy Spirit.*

- Mary said to the Angel Gabriel ' How shall that happen as I know not any man? And Angel answered : '*The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of most High shall overshadow you.* And therefore the Holy, who shall be born to you, shall be called Son of God'
  - In the picture we see Angel Gabriel greeting Mary as she is praying and *announcing to her that God has chosen her to be the mother of the Saviour.* At that moment the Holy Spirit worked within her a great miracle, the mystery of Incarnation.
- Third Article Continued : '*He was born of the Virgin*

*Mary'* The Birth of Christ:

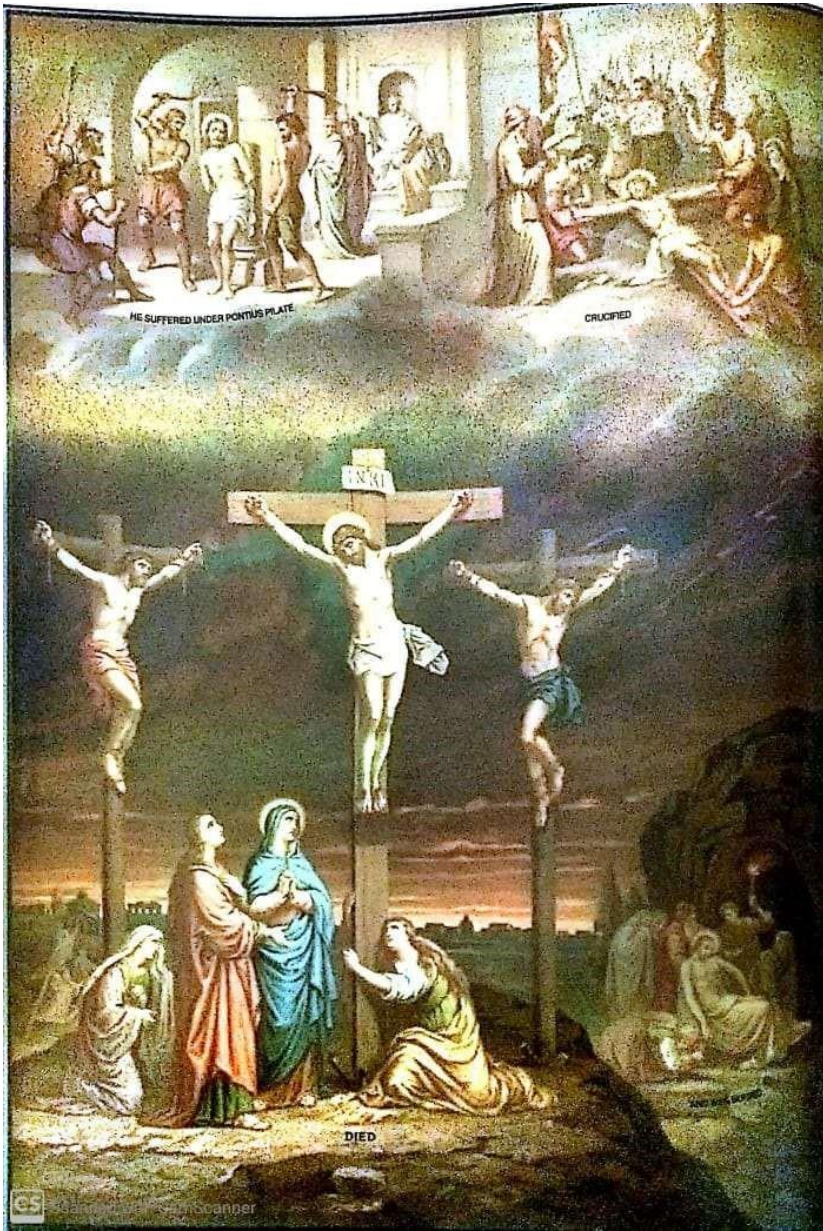


- As per the order from Caesar, everyone had to go to their own city to register themselves, **Mother Mary and St Joseph travelled to Bethlehem.**
- **Mother Mary gave birth to baby Jesus** in a manger and wrapped him in clothes, as there was no room available in the Inn.
- In the picture we see baby Jesus in the middle. **Mother Mary and St. Joseph watching so lovingly.** Shepherds come to adore him while the angels sing the joyous hymn : 'Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men of good will'

Fourth Article : 'He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried' **The mystery of Redemption:**

- Mystery of redemption is the how the **Son of God died on the cross to redeem the mankind.**





- While **Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea, Jesus endured terrible sufferings** to his body and was crucified.
- **On the cross, he asked His Father to forgive** his executioners, promised heaven to repenting thief, commended Mother Mary to all disciples and then gave up his soul to his Father.
- In the picture at the top we see Pilate sitting in judgement, on the left Our Lord at the pillar and on the right, Our Lord being nailed to the Cross. Below is the Crucifixion of Our Lord.  
Bottom right, Our Lord's body is being to the tomb.

Fourth Article Continued : **‘He descended to the dead’**

**Fulfillment of his mission:**

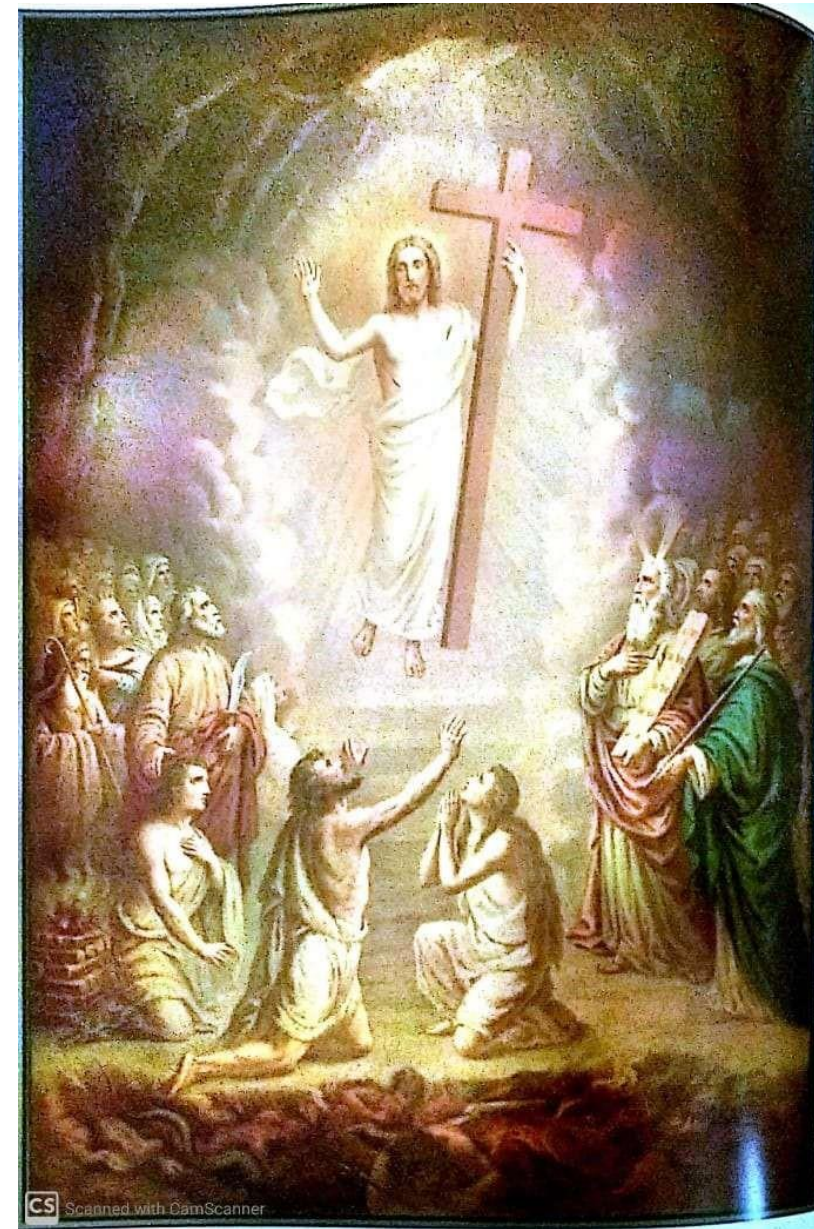
- The main mission of our Lord Jesus was **to preach salvation to all souls**.

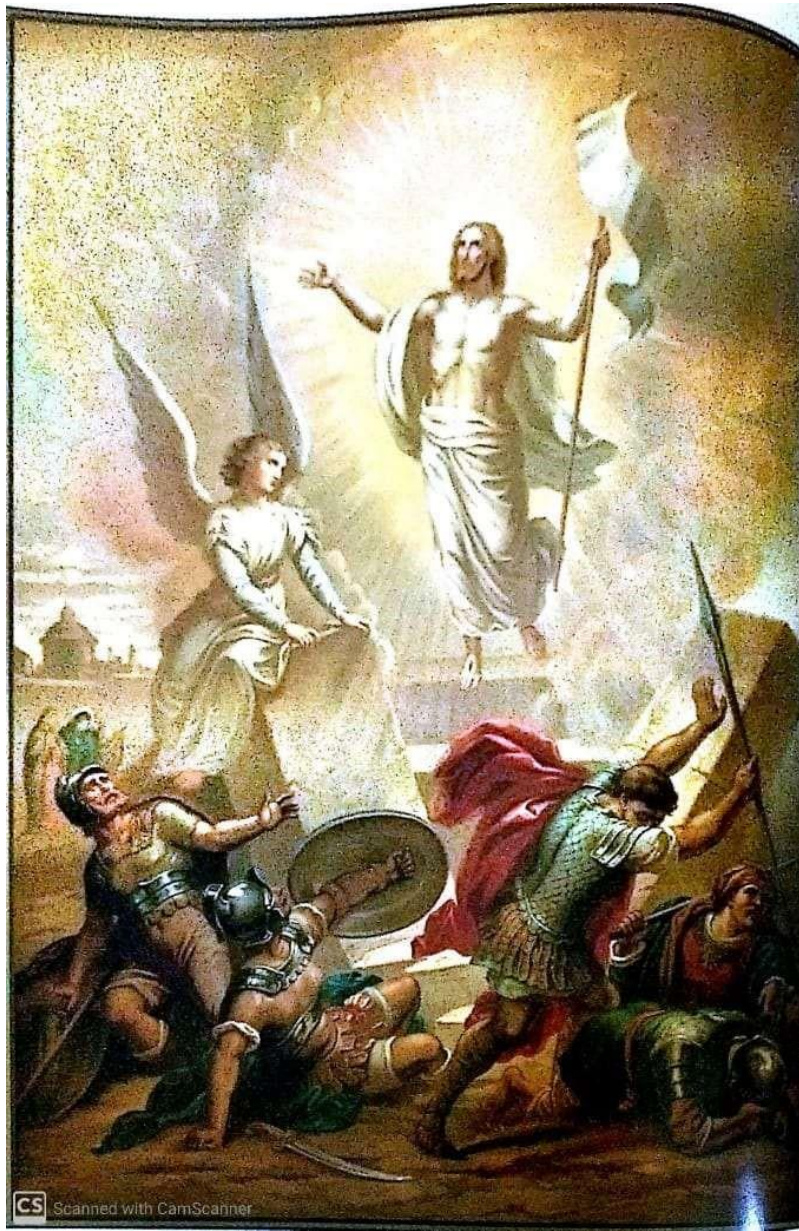


- The Saviour went down to the dead as *he had come to liberate the souls of both the living and the dead*.
- The descend into the dead *brings the Gospel message of salvation to complete fulfilment*. This is the last phase of Jesus's messianic mission.
- In the picture we see Jesus being fully divine and fully human, had to go through the stages of human being. Therefore he *went down to the dead souls as a divine person* and then rose from the dead.

Fifth Article : 'On the third day, he rose again from the dead'

**The Risen Lord:**





- These words mean that on the third day after his death, **Jesus Christ, by his own power, reunited His Soul to His Body** and came out from the tomb alive and glorious.
- His Soul united with His Body because when he reunited with his disciples, **he showed them the wounds** in his hands, feet and his side.
- In the picture we see on the left, holy women who came to embalm Our Lord's body, when the earth trembled and **an angel of the Lord came down from heaven**, rolled back the stone covering the tomb and sat upon it. Guards fell down to the ground on seeing this. Angel then declares **'Fear not, for I know you look for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen.'**

Sixth Article : **'He ascended into heaven'** Going back to Father:

- Forty days after his resurrection, **Jesus, by His own Power, went up into the heaven in the sight of His disciples.**

- It is between the Resurrection and the Ascension that *our Lord prepared his Apostles more directly for the coming ministry*. Directing them what to do, empowering them to forgive sins and to go to all nations, preaching and baptizing.

- In the picture *we see the Mount of Olives* consisting of 3 peaks. It is *from the central peak that Our Lord goes up to Heaven* in the sight of his apostles and holy women.

- When *he disappeared from sight enveloped in a bright cloud*, two angels appeared before the Apostles and said : ‘Ye men of Galilee, why stand looking up to heaven? This Jesus who is taken up from you to heaven, shall so come as you have seen Him going to heaven’

Sixth Article continued: ‘*And is seated at the right hand of God the Father*’

### Jesus Christ the Judge:

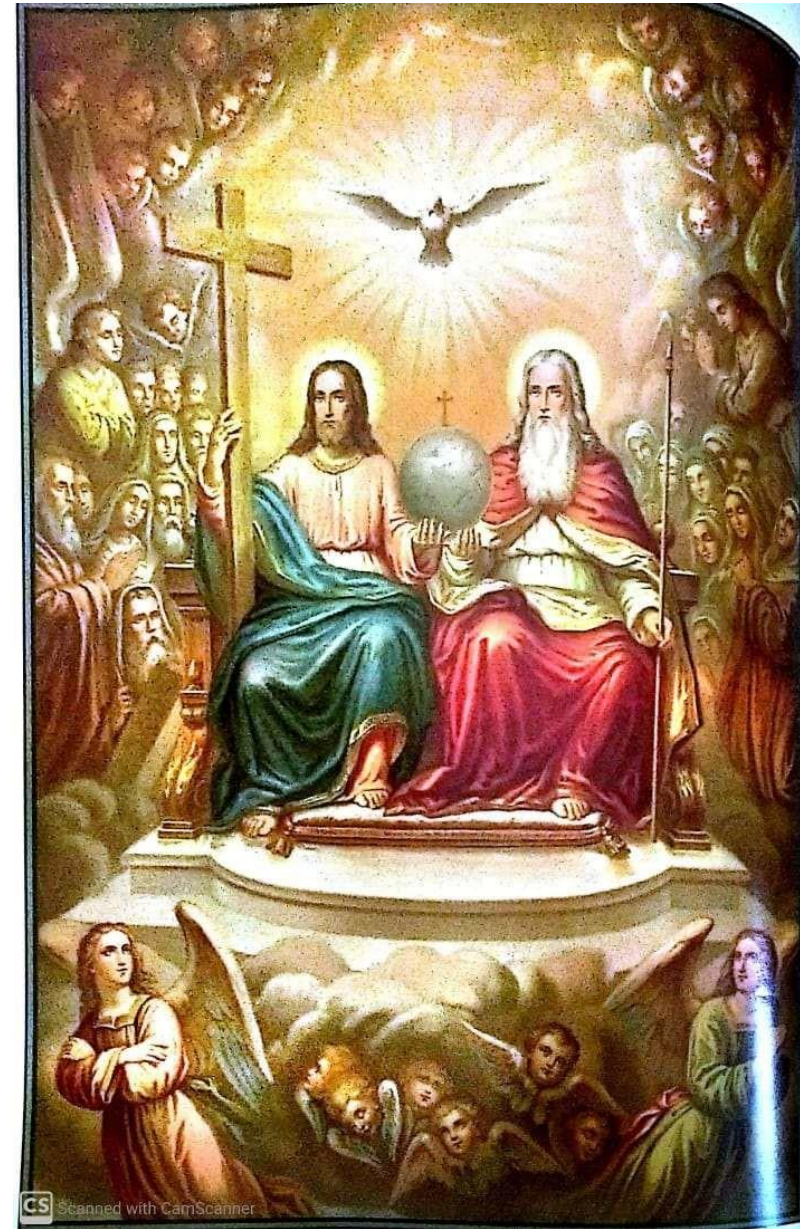
- Before leaving the world Jesus Christ said, ‘All power is given to me in heaven and on earth’ Mathew 28 : 18



- Jesus sits 'at the right hand of God the Father' intends to convey that ***Jesus, who as God is equal to the Father***, gives us a powerful reason to hope, that we shall one day be united in heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ.
- In the picture we see ***Jesus Christ seated in heaven at the right hand of His Father on a throne of glory***; the angels and saints surround him.
- The Father holds the Sceptre, the Son the Cross and ***both hold the world***, created by the Father, redeemed by the Son and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Seventh Article : 'From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead' **Day of Judgement:**

- Reminds us that at the end of the world ***Jesus Christ will come visibly in great majesty to judge all living and dead*** – each according to their work and merit.





- Living and Dead means those who are living in grace and those who are dead in mortal sin.
- We shall be ***judged on the good or evil we have done*** in thoughts, word and deed or by omission.
- In the picture we see ***Jesus is seated on the clouds, surrounded by angels and saints and his apostles*** who will judge with him. Angels are sounding the trumpet calling all to judgement. On his left are angels driving the wicked in the depths of hell.

**Eighth Article : ‘I believe in the Holy Spirit’ Third person of the Holy Trinity:**

- Holy Spirit ***has appeared in visible form many times***. In the form of a Dove when Our Lord was Baptized, as tongues of fire over the Apostles at Pentecost.



## Amen

### An Ancient Aramaic Word:

- It was used as a ***Signature which confirmed a deal or an agreement between two persons***. Later it became part of Hebrew, Syrian and Arabic language.
- ‘Amen’ in the Creed expresses ***God’s faithfulness towards us and our trust in him***.
- The Creeds final word ‘Amen’ repeats and confirms the first words ‘I believe’. To believe is to say ***Amen to God’s commandments, words and promises***.
- ***Jesus himself is the Amen*** : Rev 3:14. He is the definitive ***Amen of Father’s love for us***. He completes our ‘Amen’ to the Father. That’s why we utter Amen through him, to the glory of God.