



## Affirmation of Faith - The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is more than ancient words — it is a steady anchor for restless hearts. Formed in the early church and shaped through generations of believers, the Creed reminds us that our faith is not built on shifting feelings or passing trends. It is grounded in the unchanging story of God's love.

When we say, "*I believe,*" we are not reciting a formula. We are stepping into a long line of believers who trusted the same God, followed the same Christ, and were led by the same Spirit. The Creed gathers the essentials of our faith and places them like stones beneath our feet — firm, steady, and sure.

In a world that often feels uncertain, the Creed calls us back to what is true: God is our Father. Jesus is our Savior. The Spirit is our Helper. Grace is our hope. Resurrection is our future.

Please join me this morning in reaffirming our faith.

**Leader:** Do you believe in God the Father?

**People:** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**Leader:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People:** I believe 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**Leader:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People:** 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.

## Words of Wisdom - Isaiah 61:1-3

Isaiah 61:1-3 is a breath of hope spoken into a weary world. These verses remind us that God does not ignore our pain—He steps into it with purpose. The prophet announces that the Spirit of the Lord is moving toward the brokenhearted, the oppressed, and the poor with **good news**, not judgment; with **healing**, not rejection; with **freedom**, not fear.

This passage reveals the heart of God: He is the One who binds wounds, lifts burdens, and replaces ashes with beauty. He brings comfort where sorrow has settled and joy where heaviness has lingered too long. Isaiah's words point forward to the ministry of Jesus, who would embody this mission perfectly—bringing restoration to every place that feels ruined or forgotten.

As you listen to these verses, let them remind you that God's healing is not distant. His comfort is not delayed. His renewal is not theoretical. He comes close to the hurting, speaks life into the weary, and rebuilds what has been broken.

Today, may your heart rest in this truth: God delights in restoring what feels lost, and His Spirit is still bringing good news to every place in need of hope.

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the Lord  
for the display of his splendor.

May God bless our discernment to His Holy Word.

**People: Praise be to God.**

## Word of God - Luke 4:14-19

When Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, He stepped into the synagogue at Nazareth and read words that would define His entire ministry. In Luke 4:14-19, Jesus announces that the Spirit of the Lord is upon Him – not for status, not for applause, but for **mission**. A mission rooted in compassion, justice, and restoration.

He declares good news for the poor, freedom for the captive, sight for the blind, and hope for the oppressed. These are not abstract promises; they are the heartbeat of God reaching into the real, hurting places of human life. In this moment, Jesus is not just reading Scripture – He is revealing Himself as the fulfillment of it.

This passage reminds us that the Gospel is not passive. It moves toward the broken. It lifts the weary. It restores what has been crushed. And it invites us to join Jesus in His Spirit-empowered mission of healing and hope.

As you reflect on these verses today, let your heart rest in this truth: **Jesus came to bring freedom, healing, and renewal – and that mission continues in us and through us.**

Now hear the word of the Lord, from the New International Version.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**