



# WHAT WE BELIEVE

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



Did you know that in the early days of the Church the Creed was not professed? The original place of the Creed was in the context of baptism. The Creed has always been tied to our identity as Christians.

Many have questioned why we have two Creeds: the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed. The Apostles Creed is known as the baptismal Creed and is an older version. The Nicene Creed is the one we profess at Mass and is the result of the Council of Nicaea (325) which linked itself to the doctrine that held that Christ was not divine but was a created being. This was known as Arianism. This Creed was further updated at the Council of Constantinople in 381.

In both of the above-mentioned Creeds, we profess faith in the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There is one God, the Father, who has created heaven and earth. This Father is the source of all life, all love. He is gift. He is love. We encounter this love in the Old Testament learning to see God as the bridegroom of the bridal nation of Israel: "You shall be my people, and I will be your God" (Ezekiel 36:28). The full sense of what it means to say "Father" was revealed by the Father's Son, Jesus. Jesus is not just sort of God or kind of God. He is "God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father..." This means when meeting the face of the Son, Jesus, we are encountering God.

This is the God who is alive and active in the Church. This is the God who forgives our sins, renewing in us our baptism as priests, prophets, and kings in the world. This is the God who will raise us from the dead, completing the transformation of creation that began in the resurrection of the Son. This is the God whom we will enjoy when we are taken up into heaven. This is our ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM that we share.

So, next time we pray the profession of Faith, try to realize the meaning behind all those words!

Have a safe, healthy, and blessed week ahead!