

Sunday School Opening

+The Invocation

+The Hymn: "Christians, Come in Sweetest Measures"

1. Christians come in sweetest measures
Sing of those who spread the treasures
In the holy Gospels shrined;
Blessed tidings of salvation,
Peace on earth their proclamation,
Love from God to lost mankind.

2. See the rivers four that gladden
With their streams the better Eden,
Planted by our Savior dear,
Christ the Fountain, these the waters,
Drink, O Zion's sons and daughters;
Drink and find salvation here.

Then shall thanks and praise ascending
For Thy mercies without ending
Rise to Thee, O Savior blest.
With Thy gracious aid defend us,
Let Thy guiding light attend us,
Bring us to Thy place of rest.

+The Prayer

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

The Athanasia Creed: “Do We Really Believe That?”

We say it once a year on Holy Trinity Sunday. We spend the rest of the year wondering if we really believe it! The Athanasian Creed can create questions. There might even be some parts of it that we think are highly suspect. So, let’s talk about it.

“The catholic faith? I don’t believe the catholic faith!”

Yes, you do! You just don’t know it!

We don’t believe the **Catholic** faith, as in Roman Catholic.

But we do believe the **catholic** faith.

Catholic comes from the Greek phrase “κατα ολησ” which means, “according to the whole.”

Read the second paragraph in red ink on page 319 in the hymnal.

The catholic faith “is what the true Church of all times and all places has confessed.”

The Apostles and Nicene Creeds are also expressions of the “catholic” faith—what the Church has always and everywhere believed. They, along with the Athanasian Creed, are referred to as the “catholic creeds.”

Read the small italicized print beneath the Nicene Creed on page 191 in the hymnal and beneath the Apostles Creed on page 192 in the hymnal. Shocking, I know!

So where do we get that in the Bible?

Acts 9:31

1 Corinthians 1:2, 6:17, 14:33-34

According to the Athanasian Creed what is fundamental to the “catholic” faith?

- the Holy Trinity—one God in three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- the person of Jesus—true God and true man
- the work of Jesus—He suffered, died, rose again, and will come again

“Those who have done good will enter into eternal life? I don’t believe that!”

Yes, you do! You just don’t know it!

We don’t believe you saved because you do good.

We believe you do good because you’re saved

Jesus says the exact same thing!

Read John 5:24-29.

Who are those “who have done good?”

Who are those “who have done evil?”

Jesus talks the same way in Matthew’s Gospel!

Read Matthew 25:31 ff.

Again who are the sheep who have cared for their neighbors?

Who are the goats who have neglected their neighbors?

Ephesians 2:8-10 is helpful.

What role do good works play in our salvation?

What role do good works play in the life of the saved?