

“On the third day he rose again.” Everything about Christianity hinges on this article of the Creed. If Jesus is only the “historical Jesus,” then Christianity is a delusion and a waste of time (see 1Corinthians 15:12-26). But if Jesus is raised as Lord, everything changes!

Dwelling in the Word

Prayerfully read 1Corinthians 15:12-26; and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you? 2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you? 3) How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

Beginning the Conversation

1. In some ways, the statement “On the third day he rose again” is the most shocking part of the Creed. When you compare the historical finality of death to the promise of the resurrection, why is this belief so vital for distinguishing Christianity from other religions?
2. How does the idea of Jesus being “seated at the right hand of the Father” right now change the way you view the current chaos or politics of our world?

Digging Deeper

1. Most first-century Jews expected God to resurrect everyone together at the very end of time. How does the fact that God raised Jesus in the middle of history signal that a new age has already begun? What implications does this have for our lives today?
2. Romans 1:4 states Jesus was “appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection.” How does the resurrection act as the ultimate revealer of who Jesus truly is, rather than just a miraculous exit from the grave?
3. According to Acts 2:33-36, Jesus’ resurrection and exaltation prove that God has made him both “Lord and Messiah.” How does this declaration of his authority challenge the “authority” we often give to our own desires or societal pressures?
4. The Ascension is described not as a statement about cosmology (where heaven is located physically), but as a statement about sovereignty. What is the significance of Jesus being “seated at the right hand of the Father” to serve as co-regent and mediator?
5. Read John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7. Jesus ascended so that he could send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. Why is the ministry of the Advocate essential for continuing the witness of Jesus through his followers today?
6. 1 Corinthians 15:17 warns that “if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.” How is our personal salvation directly tied to the physical reality of Jesus being resurrected to new life? (see also Rom 4:25; 1Cor 15:17; 1Pet 1:3-4; 3:21)

Living it Out

1. Because of Jesus’ resurrection, we can walk in newness of life. Identify one old habit or way of thinking that belongs to the “old age.” How can you intentionally replace it this week with a practice that reflects the new life we have because we are raised with Christ? (Colossians 1:1-4)

The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

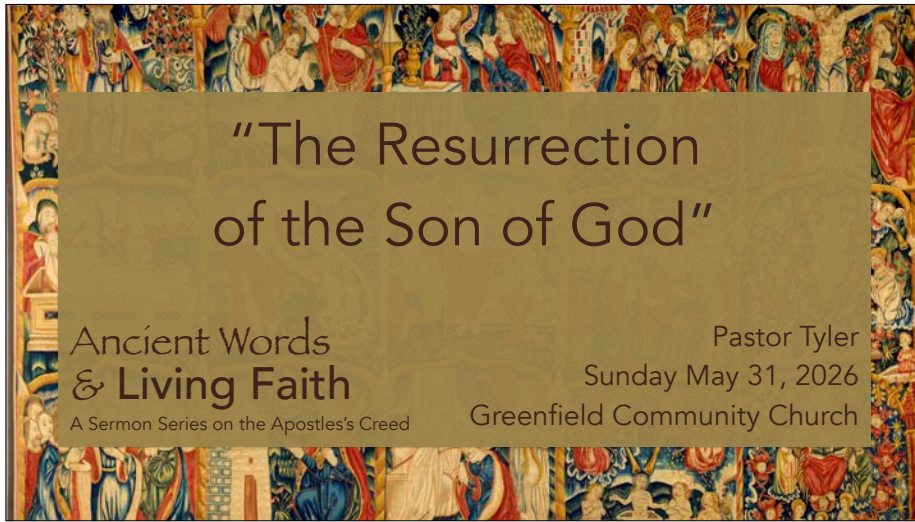
I believe in Jesus Christ,
God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic^[a] Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Notes

[*] This version is based on the translation of the ELLC.

[a] Catholic (small case c) means “universal.”




**“The Resurrection
of the Son of God”**

Ancient Words
& Living Faith

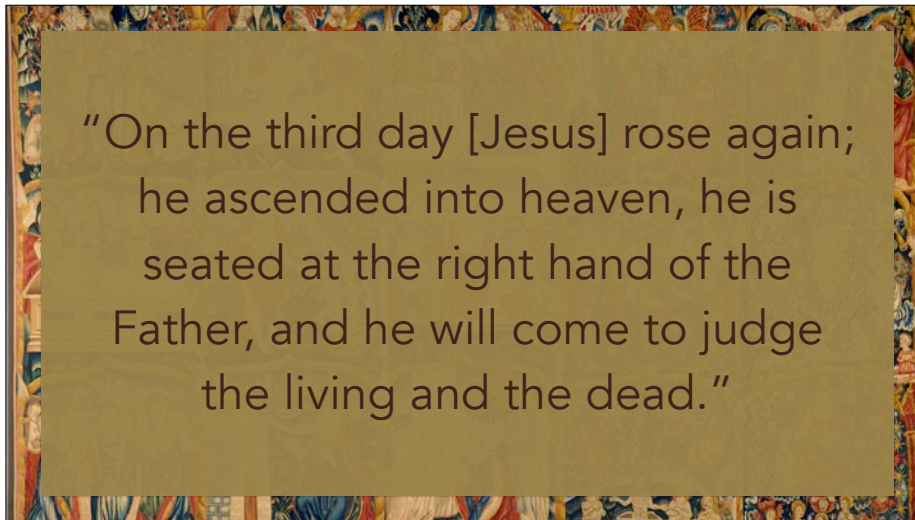
A Sermon Series on the Apostles' Creed

Pastor Tyler
Sunday May 31, 2026
Greenfield Community Church




“On the third day...”

“The Christian faith depends *completely* upon what God accomplished in the career of Jesus of Nazareth—in that person, in that place, in that time. The validity of the whole Christian Story depends entirely on whether Jesus of Nazareth really did die, really did rise from the dead, and really did ascend into heaven as the world’s Saviour and Lord” (John G. Stackhouse, *Can I Believe?* 93).



“On the third day [Jesus] rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.”



“He Rose Again” – Jesus Lives!

Jesus’ resurrection reveals who he really is (Acts 2:33, 36; Rom 1:2-4; Heb 1:2; Matt 28:18).

- ♦ Jesus is raised, so he is the Messiah!
- ♦ Jesus is raised, so he is the Son of God!
- ♦ Jesus is raised, so he is our Lord!



“He Rose Again” – Jesus Lives!

Jesus’ Resurrection is a sign the New Age has already begun!

- Most Jews believed God would resurrect everyone at the end of the age (see Daniel 12:2; John 11:24).
- Jesus’ resurrection is a sign that in Jesus the future New Age has broken into the present!
- Jesus is the “first fruits” of this future resurrection and the “firstborn” of the new creation (Rom 8:29; 1Cor 15:20, 23; Col 1:15, 18; Heb 12:23; Rev 1:5).



“He Rose Again” – Jesus Lives!

Jesus’ Resurrection is how we are saved!

- We are saved in, by, and through the resurrection of Jesus the Messiah (Rom 4:25; 1Cor 15:17; 1Pet 1:3-4; 3:21).



“He Ascended” – Jesus Reigns!

Jesus’ Ascension & Enthronement

- There are two writers who recount Jesus’ ascension (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11).
- Not a statement about cosmology; but Jesus is taken away in such a manner as to leave clear in the minds of observers that he has gone to be with God the Father in heaven.



“He Ascended” – Jesus Reigns!

“When the NT writers speak of the ascension, they are not describing Jesus’ absence but his sovereign presence throughout creation. He has not gone away but has become even more fully present. His ascent ‘to the right hand of the Father’ is his public enthronement over all worldly power” (Ben Myers, *The Apostles’ Creed*, 88).



“He Ascended” – Jesus Reigns!

The conviction that Jesus is now ruling in heaven with God permeates the NT. Jesus is:

- Lifted up and exalted (Acts 2:31; 5:31; John 3:14; 8:28; 12:32, 34; Phil 2:9-11);
- Enthroned (Rom 8:34; Eph 1:20; Col 3:1; Heb 1:3; 8:1);
- Glorified (John 12:16; 13:31-32; 17:5; Acts 3:13-15);
- And “all things subject to him” (1Cor 15:27; Phil 2:10; Col 3:1; Heb 1:3; 8:1; 9:12; 12:2; 1Pet 3:22; Rev 5:1, 7).



“He Ascended” – Jesus Reigns!

Jesus ascended so he can send the Holy Spirit and his gifts, as well as enjoy a new form of intimacy with us.

- Jesus sends the Holy Spirit, also referred to as the Advocate/Paraclete (Luke 24:49; John 14:16-17; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7; Acts 2:17; Eph 4:11-16).
- And lives to make intercession for us (Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25; 1John 2:1).



“He will Judge” – Jesus will Return!

“He will come to judge the living and the dead.”

- Judgement in Scripture is always seen as God’s prerogative.
- Jesus is not only God’s agent of salvation, but also shares God’s role as judge (Rom 2:16; 14:10; 2Cor 5:10; Acts 17:31; Heb 4:13).



“He will Judge” – Jesus will Return!

Judgement is entrusted to the only One who is able to judge with impartiality and grace.

- Our lives are all transparent to the God who made us and to the Lord Jesus who shares God’s life (Heb 4:13).



“He will Judge” – Jesus will Return!

“It is a joy to know that there is someone who understands all the complexities and abilities of our lives. It is a joy to know that this one—the only one who is truly competent to judge—is ‘full of grace and truth’ (John 1:14). He comes to save, not to destroy, and he saves us by his judgment” (Ben Myers, *The Apostles’ Creed*, 93).



Implications for Trinity Sunday

All three persons of the Trinity are involved in the work of salvation!

- The Father sends the Son, the Son obeys the Father, then the Father raises the Son by the Spirit; afterward the Son sends the Spirit to believers, and the risen Son continually mediates between humanity and God the Father through the Spirit.



Invitation

We are invited to relationship and intimacy with the Triune God!