

A summary of Luther's meanings of the Creed to be memorized by first year confirmation students:

The First Article:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Meaning:

First paragraph – I believe that God has made me and all creatures; He has given me my body and soul, and still takes care of them.

Second paragraph – He also richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

Third paragraph – He defends and protects me.

Fourth paragraph – All this He does only out of divine goodness and mercy without any worthiness in me. It is my duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.

“This is most certainly true.”

The Second Article:

And 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Meaning:

First paragraph – Jesus Christ is true God, true man, my Lord.

Second paragraph – He has redeemed me from sin, death, and the devil. Not with gold or silver, but with His precious blood and innocent death.

Third paragraph – I may be His own and live in His kingdom and serve Him forever.

Fourth paragraph – He is risen from the dead and reigns to all eternity.

“This is most certainly true.”

The Third Article:

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Meaning:

First paragraph – I believe that I cannot by my own strength believe in Jesus, but the Holy Spirit has called me and kept me in the true faith.

Second paragraph – In the same way He calls the whole Christian church and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

Third paragraph – In this church He forgives my sins and the sins of all believers.

Fourth paragraph – On the last day He will give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

“This is most certainly true.”