LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH Garner, NC 12./24/ 18 late worship

Apostles creed 12 days

In thename…

Let us pray…

The beginning of th celebration of the 12 Days of Christmas is today and so invite you to use the 12 parts of the Creed to keep our celebration going.

The cred begins

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. At the beginning God created. Earlier today I placed the Creation at the 6th day since Scripture tells us of 6 days in which God created. And when we use the gospel of John of Christmas we know that Jesus the Word was there at the beginning. In the beginning was the Word.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s Only Son our Lord. So Jesus was born of Mary but Mary had other sons who were not His biological sons, they were his children as we are, but not like Jesus. And this Jesus did the will of His Father in Heaven.

The next line of the creed tells us why.

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. And this goes back to the notion of Joseph wanting to divorce because she was with child. However an angelic visit explained that to Joseph and so doing also us. We know Jesus was of the House and lineage of David by virtue of His mother Mary, so He was human, but also divine.

That humanity comes about because He was born of the Virgin Mary. Unlike the ancient gods He did not descend from the gods, but was fully human, we can use the word incarnate. And He would live among us mortals, humans.

Suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, died and was buried. Did He ever suffer. He probably suffered more than most humans ever will. Mentally He was mocked, physically, He was whipped. And then seemingly abandoned by all who were important to Him.

And Jesus experienced a death our modern world has eliminated because it s too cruel. But He did so willingly for us.

He descended to the dead: He not only came for those living at that time and after, but even for all those who have gone before. He was dead like them but will rise to new life which is the hope for all from the beginning to the end of time.

On the third day He rose again, He ascended into heaven and I seated at the right hand of the Father. In both Luke and Acts Jesus ascension is portrayed. Early church fathers who put this together had a simple notion of the cosmos, the world. To them the world was not round so Jesus ascended that is went up to heaven. Also all they could think about was the way they know of King ruling on thrones so the Father occupied the throne ad the Son was His right hand man seated to His right. Even as we say that we know Jesus did not consider Himself a ruler, but a servant modeling servanthood for us.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead. All inclusive and for all believers wonderful because as the hymn goes He has fit us for heaven to live with Him there.

I believe in the Holy Spirit. Every prayer I ever speak for those sick or shut in or mourner, for all I need the Holy Spirit is included because he is our guide, comforter and strength.

The Holy catholic Church. All brands, denominations, or non. Despite our differences, if the central belief is Jesus as Lord and Savior then all churches are of the universal church. And we rejoice in that and profess that vigorously.

The communion of Saints: Those who have gone before us have been so important modeling the faith for us and providing us with examples for our lives. It is with joy we can anticipate the end of our lives here when we will oi the communion of saints.

The resurrection of the body. What about a body that has been cremated or why would I want this body resurrected. It is shot. What about a body that never was “whole” as we know it? Someone who has never been able to walk from birth. How about my students who have never walked, Rebecca, Patrick, Sara, ad Erika. I leave the resurrected body to God who through Christ has already shown He can make people whole.

The life everlasting is granted to us because of this baby, Who lived for us, born to Mary and Joseph, so that He could willingly die for us and be resurrected leading the way for our own resurrections but not before ministering, healing, and caring for His people in need. During these 12 days of Christmas contemplate these 12 parts of the creed while following Christ’s example of ministering to, caring for His people in need with love; thereby showing our love for the One Who first loved us Jesus whose birth we celebrate today with hymn s of praise.

In the name…8878

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