

I believe in the triune God of all creation, the source of all life, love, and light. God is the pervasive author of all justice, mercy, and redemption. The trinity is composed of three mysteriously distinct and yet inseparable aspects of the same divine truth: the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

I believe God is our strength, and our refuge. God rejoices in our worship, faith, and love. God is both great and meek—unchanging yet yielding. God is knowable to us through prayer, worship, and the teachings of the Bible. Scripture is the inspired word of God.

I believe Jesus is the Word, Himself. God's manifestation on Earth. He is the Son of God, born to humanity out of divine love. As the incarnation of God, Christ reveals the divine significance of empathy. Christ's very *life* calls each of us to reach for a deeper understanding and love for one another. The greatest of His gifts was His own life, freely given on the cross. Through Jesus' salvific life, death, and resurrection, we are invited to enjoy a *new* life in Him, and I believe He rejoices when we join Him in His ministry of healing and justice to all people.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, which is known by the Hebrew word: "Ruahk"—the breath of life. It is God's Spirit of parental love for humanity. The Holy Spirit is God's comfort in times of trial. It gives unity to the separated, inspires us to acts of love, and ignites our hearts to follow our callings. In the context of the modern Church, the Holy Spirit is a unifying Spirit between churches and denominations as well. It can be felt in worship during hymns, liturgies, prayers, sacraments, the reading of the confessions, scripture, and the sharing of the Gospel from the pulpit.

I believe the sacraments are gifts of God for the people of God, handed down from generation to generation, throughout the history of the Church. They act as signs of what has been done, and seal us in God's Word and in community together. By baptism, we are recognized as God's chosen, covenant people, whom Jesus redeemed through His life, death, and resurrection. The baptismal waters spiritually cleanse and renew us. The bread and cup we receive in communion are the body and blood of our Messiah. These sacramental elements of water, bread, and cup are basic and yet they are essential to our lives. This demonstrates God's will to do great wonders with lowly things—including us. Approaching the Lords Table to communally partake in the sacraments prepares us to participate in these great wonders. The sacraments bring us closer to God by focusing our hearts and minds on the sacrifice Christ made for us, as well as our redemption won through it. In this way, the sacraments also prepare our spirits for worship, mission, love, and service to all of God's people.