

The Nicene Creed

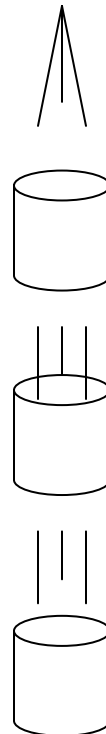
This activity will help you to appreciate the Trinitarian structure of the Nicene Creed, which we profess at liturgy on Sundays. You may want to spread this activity out over the three days before Trinity Sunday.

Supplies

- Scissors
- Three pieces of blank paper
- Pencil
- Crayons or markers
- Yarn
- Tape

Instructions

1. Begin by making the sign of the cross. *We begin our prayers with the sign of the cross because the Trinity is the central belief of our faith. All of our other beliefs are rooted in our belief in one God who is three divine persons.*
2. Review the Nicene Creed printed below by visiting each part. Discuss the three main parts: *the first part expresses our belief in God as the Father, the second part expresses our belief in God as the Son, and the third part expresses our belief in God as the Holy Spirit.*
3. Use scissors to cut the creed into the three parts by cutting along the dashed lines.
4. Explore the meaning of the first part of the creed. *Who is the Father?* Write down your thoughts about the Father on one of the blank sheets of paper.
5. Turn the paper over and draw a symbol that represents the father. Draw the symbol large enough to cover most of the paper, and the top of the symbol should run along the long edge of the paper. Color the symbol.
6. Repeat steps five and six for the second section (the Son) and the third section (the Holy Spirit).
7. Now you should have three symbols – one per page. Tape together the two short edges of each paper to make three cylinders.
8. Connect the three cylinders using tape (or staples) and yarn (see illustration). Tape or staple three pieces of yarn to the top of the cylinder (see illustration).
9. Tie the three pieces of yarn together and hang your Trinitarian Cylinder in a special place in your house.



Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.