

2026 RECITATION OPTIONS

Pre-School (ages 3-4): The Apostles' Creed

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

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 arose 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.

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.

Early Grammar (ages 5-7): The Beatitudes

Matt 5:3-11

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons^[a] of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Grammar (ages 8–12): We All Believe in One True God, LSB 954

1. We all believe in one true God, who created earth and heaven,
The Father, who to us in love has the right of children given.
He in soul and body feeds us; all we need His hand provides us;
Through all snares and perils leads us, watching that no harm betide us.
He cares for us by day and night; all things are governed by His might.
2. We all believe in Jesus Christ, His own Son, our Lord, possessing
An equal Godhead, throne, and might, source of every grace and blessing;
Born of Mary, virgin mother, by the power of the Spirit,
Word made flesh, our elder brother; that the lost might life inherit,
Was crucified for all our sin and raised by God to life again.
3. We all confess the Holy Ghost, who in highest heaven dwelling
With God the Father and the Son, comforts us beyond all telling;
Who the Church, His own creation, keeps in unity of spirit.
Here forgiveness and salvation daily come through Jesus' merit.
All flesh shall rise, and we shall be in bliss with God eternally.

Dialectic (ages 13–14): Athanasian Creed

¹Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.

²Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.

³And the catholic faith is this,

⁴that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.

⁵for the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.

⁶But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.

⁷Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit;

⁸the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;

⁹the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;

¹⁰the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.

¹¹And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,

¹²just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinities, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.

¹³In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;

¹⁴and yet there are not three Almightyies, but one Almighty.

¹⁵So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;

¹⁶and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.

¹⁷So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;

¹⁸and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.

¹⁹Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

²⁰The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.

²¹The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.

²²The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.

²³Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

²⁴And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;

²⁵but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as had been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.

²⁶Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

²⁷But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁸Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.

²⁹He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:

³⁰perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;

³¹equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

³²Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:

³³one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into the flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;

³⁴one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.

³⁵For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,

³⁶who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,

³⁷ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

³⁸At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.

³⁹And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

⁴⁰This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

Rhetoric (ages 15–18): Isaiah 53 (ESV)

¹Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,

and no beauty that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

and with his stripes we were healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief;

when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;

by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous,

and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many; and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,

because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.