



**FIRST BAPTIST**  
MERIDIANVILLE  
REAL. FAMILY.

# WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE  
BAPTIST  
FAITH &  
MESSAGE  
2000

## Session 3 – Creeds, Confessions, and Catechisms

### Review:

- Doctrine is important.
- There are different levels of doctrinal teaching that should be balanced by their importance in relation to salvation.

## Session 3 – Creeds, Confessions, and Catechisms

How do we articulate doctrine that we might have unity in belief and mission?

This is why we have Creeds,  
Confessions, and Catechisms!



## What is a Creed?

- A brief authoritative doctrinal statement that articulates essential beliefs.

Creeds articulate orthodox (conforming) beliefs that allow us to preserve the faith once delivered!

## What is a Creed?

- The First Creed.

**Matthew 16:16** - Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

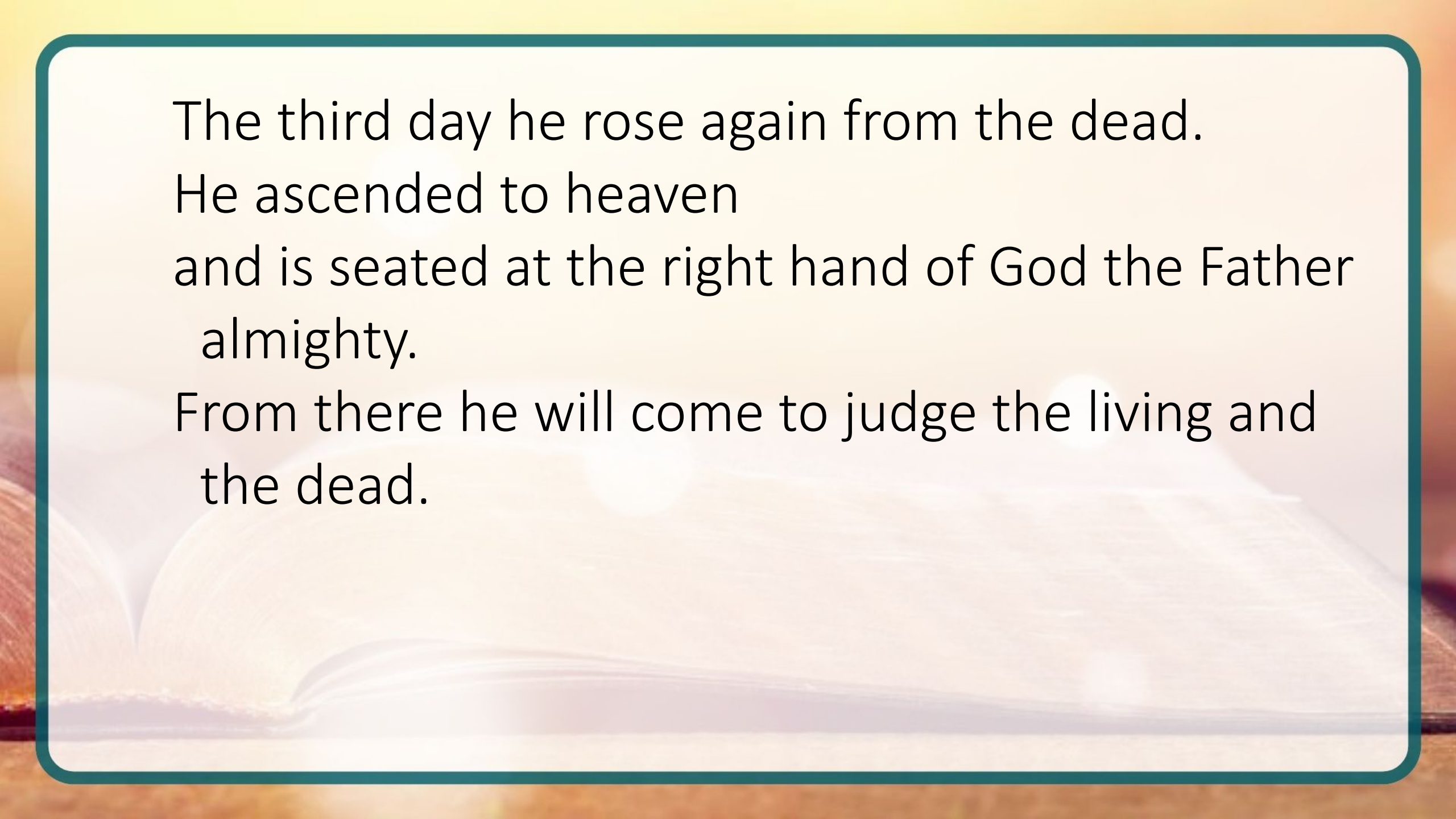
## **Apostles' Creed:**

- One of the oldest and most widely accepted creeds in Christianity.
- It is called the Apostles' Creed not because the apostles wrote it, but because it summarizes the apostles' teachings.
- It is used by many Christian denominations in both public worship and personal devotion.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

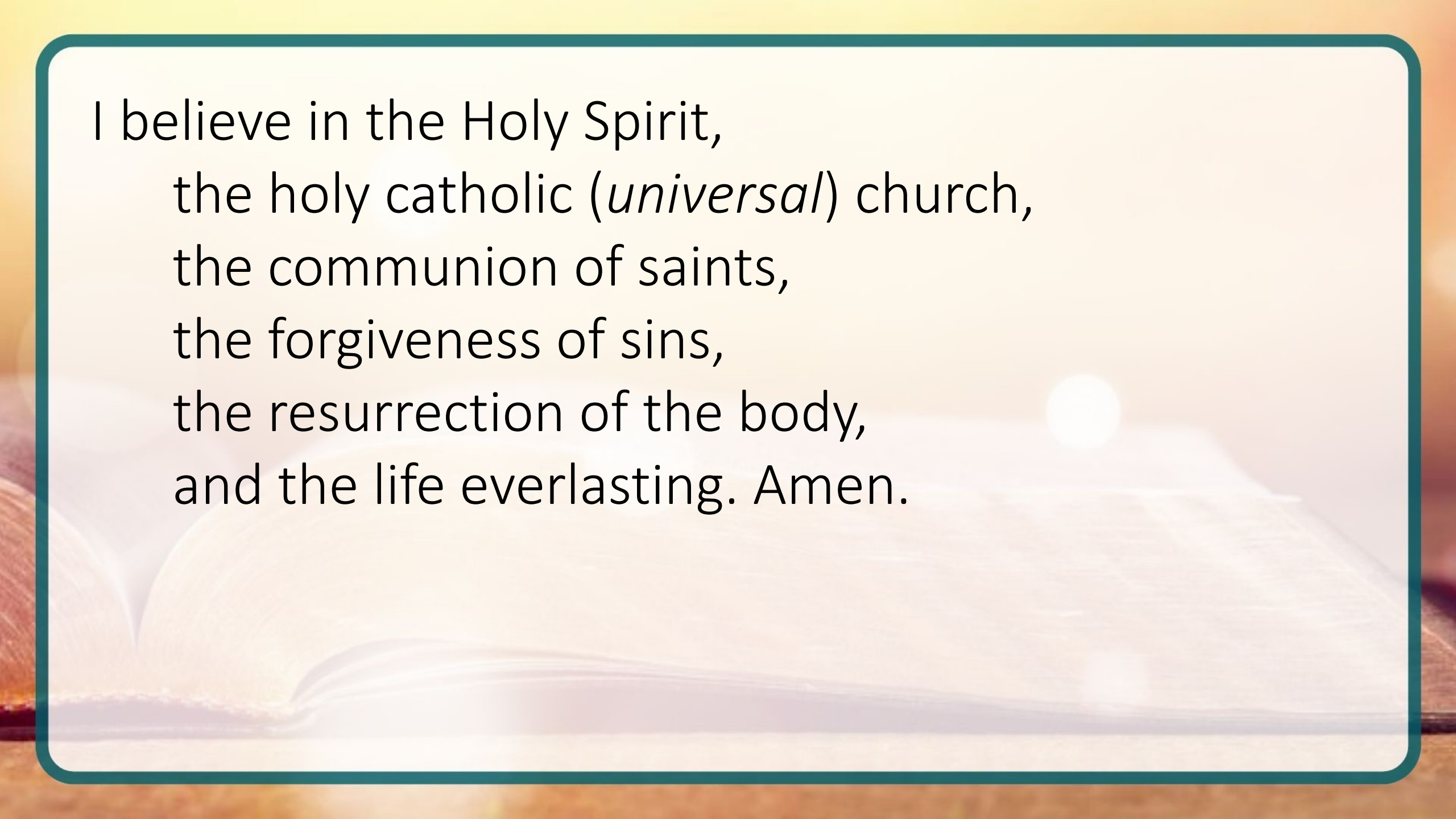
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell. (*descended to the dead*)

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are white and appear to be glowing with a soft, ethereal light, particularly in the center. The book is set against a dark, textured background. The entire scene is framed by a dark teal border with rounded corners.

The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father  
almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and  
the dead.





I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic (*universal*) church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **Nicene Creed:**

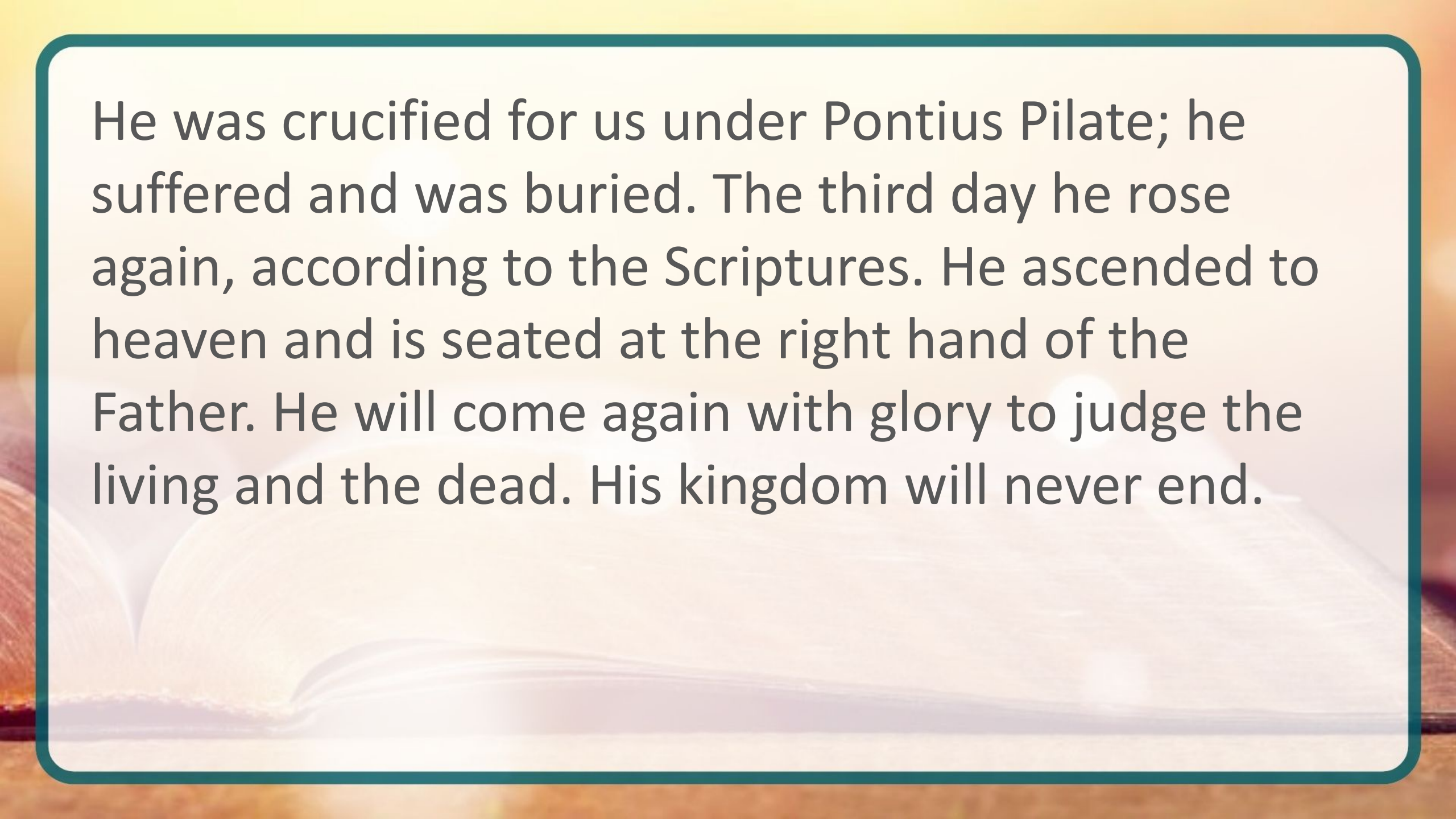
- Originated from the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.
- Expanded upon the Apostles' Creed and addressed theological controversies, particularly the nature of Christ and the Trinity.

## **Nicene Creed:**

- We believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human.



An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, lying flat. The pages are white and appear to be glowing with a soft, golden light, particularly in the center. The book is set against a dark, textured background. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the book.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

## **Athanasian Creed:**

- Often attributed to Athanasius, a prominent early Christian theologian.
- Emphasizes the orthodox understanding of the Trinity and the divinity of Christ.
- Less commonly used in liturgical settings compared to the Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed.

## **Chalcedonian Definition /Creed**

- Formulated at the Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD.
- Addresses the nature of Christ, asserting that Jesus is both fully divine and fully human without mixture, confusion, or division of the two natures.
- Plays a significant role in defining orthodox Christology in many Christian traditions.
- Marks the end of Creedal Tradition

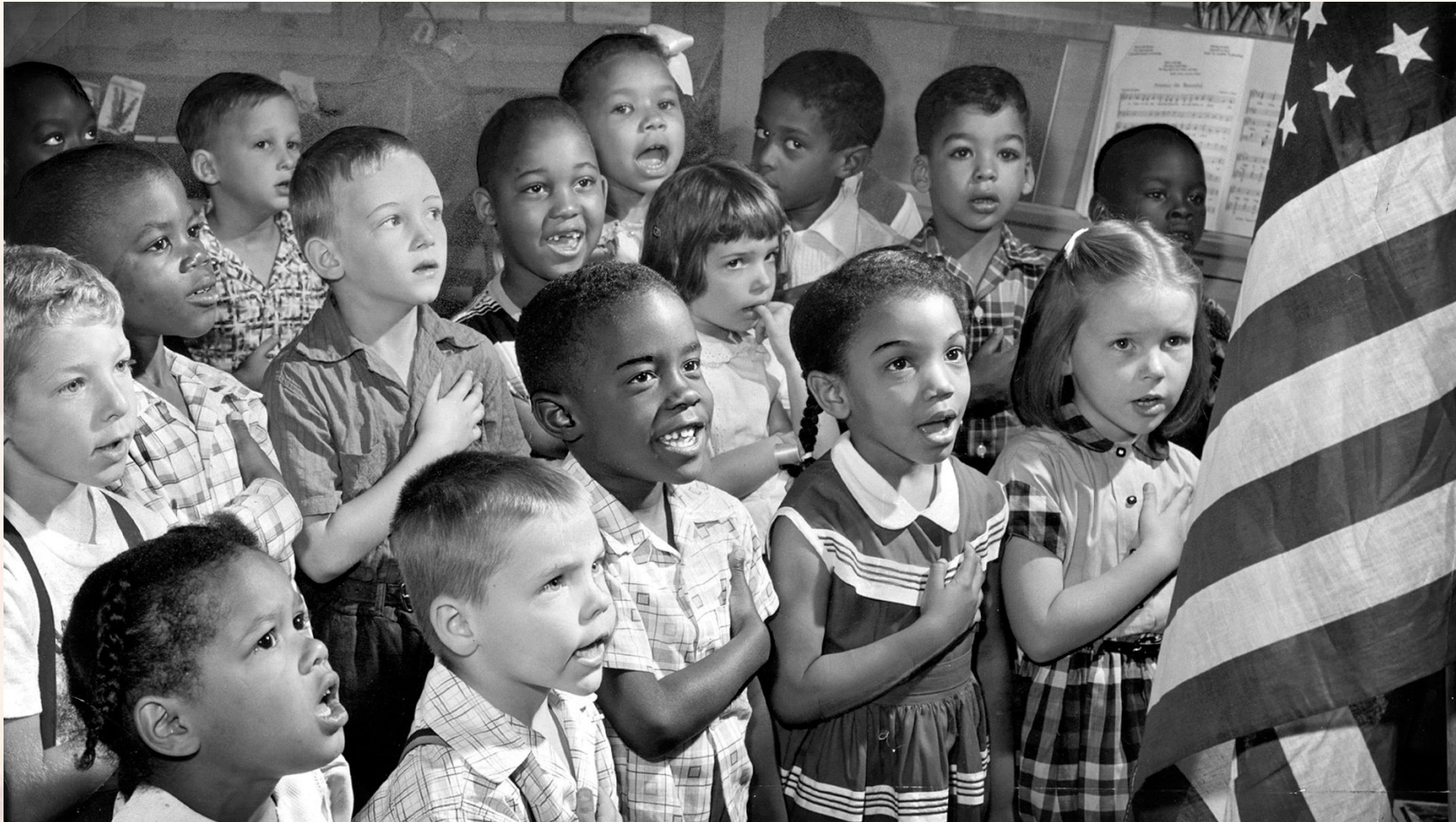


**Creeds articulate in whom we believe.**

- They focus on the essential nature of the Godhead.
- Creeds define first level issues.
  - To not agree with creedal confessions is to be heretical in faith.

**Confessions articulate how we practice what we believe.**

**Creeds are like saying the pledge of allegiance.**





Creeds are like saying the pledge of allegiance.  
Confessions are like referencing the Constitution.

