

I profess my faith in the triune God who, without ceasing to be a mystery, has taken the initiative in making Godself known in creation, in the history of the Israelites, and supremely in the person of Jesus Christ. The Word of God written is the unique and authoritative witness of this revelation of God.

Humanity is created in the image of God to be in relationship with the Creator and to live together with other people and the rest of creation. As sinners, we deny and distort our created being, but as forgiven sinners we are enabled to live life anew, not by our own merit, but by God's love and the gift of salvation that comes through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I profess that Jesus Christ is the revelation of God's sovereign and holy love, the eternal Word that has become incarnate: fully God, fully human. Jesus' ministry of compassion, healing, forgiveness, and teaching as well as his suffering, death, and resurrection was for us, for all humanity. This good news of God's love in Christ continues to work transformingly in the world by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God at work in us, enabling us to confess, "Jesus is Lord," and equipping the body of Christ with gifts for service, calling us as partners in God's redemptive work. The Spirit makes Christ present to believers and continues to unite us to God and to each other. By the power of the Holy Spirit we are united to Christ in the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

In baptism we are sealed to the body of Christ by the Spirit. We participate in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, and as we are born to new life, we affirm that we are recipients of God's gift of love and that we are claimed for God's service. In baptism we begin our journey of faith and discipleship in community—in the community of believers gathered to glorify, enjoy, and serve God in response to God's love and saving action through Christ.

As the church we are called to share the good news of salvation and to embody the love of Christ in our lives. We are called to be the sign *in* the world and *for* the world of the new reality that God makes available through Jesus Christ, the head of the church. The Holy Spirit uses the witness of Scripture to form and *re-form* us in the Christian life.

In the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit unites us with the real presence of Christ and binds us together with all believers in the sharing of this joyful feast in thanksgiving. By God's grace, we spiritually feed on Christ's body broken for us and his blood shed for us. We are thereby nourished, sustained, and given hope as we proclaim the saving death of our risen Lord until he comes again.

As resurrection people, we wait with longing, with joy, with gratitude, and with hope in the goodness of God's future.