

Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed, in its expanded form as received at the Council of Constantinople (381), stands as the common profession of Christian faith shared by the Catholic Church, the Eastern Churches separated from Rome, and most Protestant communities.

In the years following the Council of Nicaea, the Church continued to articulate the faith in response to new challenges, especially various expressions of Arianism. Several additional creedal formulas were developed—many of them expanding or adapting the Nicene Symbol. At least four appeared before the Council of Sardica in 341, and even there a new form was introduced and placed in the conciliar acts, though it was not formally received. Still, the original Nicene Creed remained the standard confession of the orthodox faith.

Whatever its precise historical development, the Creed in its present form was received and handed on by the Church as a faithful expression of apostolic belief. By the fifth century it was firmly established in both East and West, and today it remains the Church's central profession of faith—rooted in Scripture, baptism, and the living tradition of the Church.