



TO BE A CHRISTIAN

An Anglican Catechism



TO BE A CHRISTIAN

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



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What is a Catechism?

- ❖ Catechism: From the Greek *katecheo* meaning to instruct
- ❖ Instruction for Christian discipleship
- ❖ The question we must answer is where did it originate?

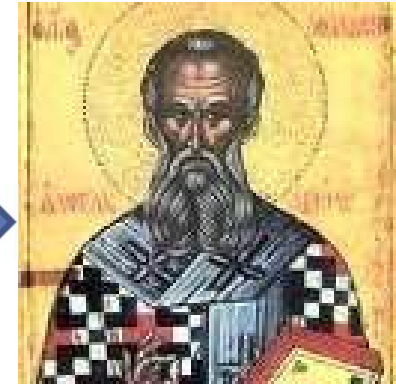


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Christian Faith is shaped and defined by the apostolic account of Jesus Christ



St. John, the Evangelist



St. Athanasius

Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." *Matthew 28:18-20*



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Why an Anglican Catechism?

- ❖ Follow the directive of the Great Commission
- ❖ To build up the Body of Christ in a post-Christian world
- ❖ To continue the tradition and faith of Anglicans were able to articulate their faith and continue the teachings of Jesus Christ





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The Anglican Faith Classic Sources of Doctrine and Worship

- ❖ The Bible
- ❖ The Early Church
- ❖ The Articles of Religion (1563) “Thirty-nine Articles”
- ❖ The King James Bible (1611)
- ❖ The Book of Common Prayer (1549-1662)
- ❖ Music and Hymnody
- ❖ The Lambeth Quadrilateral (1888)
- ❖ The Jerusalem Declaration (2008)



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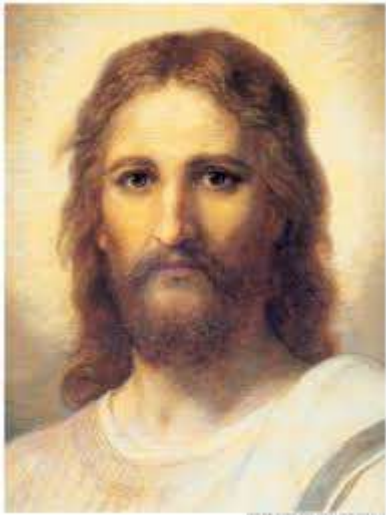
What is the Purpose of this Catechism?

- ❖ This has been designed to make it clear what it means to be a Christian
- ❖ To open the door to knowing Jesus Christ and experiencing the full love of God through Him
- ❖ To lead you to full involvement in the life and mission of the Church
- ❖ To anchor you in the reality of the unquenchable joy of Jesus Christ
- ❖ To prepare you for the lifelong commitment to Christ in a conscious way
- ❖ Preparation for the marriage between you and Jesus Christ



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The Starting Point is the Gospel of Jesus Christ



- ❖ One can know about Him yet remain apart
- ❖ We were created for God's purpose
- ❖ We all are out of step with God, sinners, separated
- ❖ Life in Christ is, first and foremost, God taking loving action to change our disposition
- ❖ Key facts of the divine remedy are:
- ❖ God the Father sent His eternal Son to reconcile the world
- ❖ Born of the Virgin Mary through the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Lived a perfect life, died a criminal's death as a sacrifice for our sins
- ❖ Rose from the grave to rule as Christ "*the Anointed*"
- ❖ Now reigns in heaven drawing sinners to himself



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The Starting Point Is Understanding What Salvation Through Jesus Christ Means

- ❖ Receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord
- ❖ Commit yourself to His lifelong discipleship
- ❖ Accept the Father as your Father, His Holy Spirit as your helper and guide, His Church as your new family
- ❖ God is calling us to Him through His Son....
- ❖ *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. John 14:6*

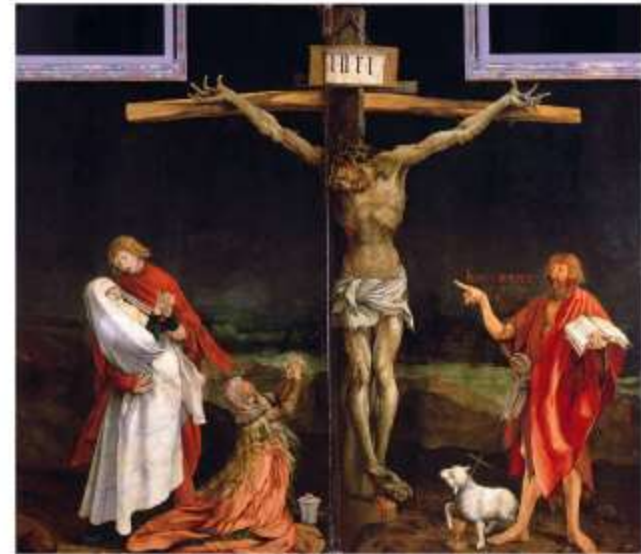




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Salvation

- ❖ What do we believe?
- ❖ How do we receive salvation?
- ❖ Who is Jesus Christ?
- ❖ Is there another way to salvation?
- ❖ What does it mean to repent?
- ❖ What does it mean to have faith?
- ❖ How do we receive faith?
- ❖ What does faith lead to?

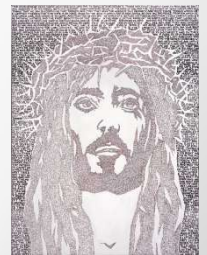




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Believing In Christ

- ❖ For Anglicans authentic Christianity is apostolic Christianity
- ❖ Anglicans affirm that the Bible, OT & NT together is “God’s written word”
- ❖ By the 2nd century key facts of apostolic faith had been organized into a catechetical syllabus of topics (Rule of Faith)
- ❖ The syllabus became the Apostles’ Creed
- ❖ Baptismal declaration in Rome and elsewhere in Christianity
- ❖ The Apostles’ Creed gathers and focuses on the scriptural truths
- ❖ Arranged in three paragraphs or articles the Creed highlights the person and work of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
- ❖ The Creed is Trinitarian
- ❖ The Creed is a “Confession” that defines the commitment basic to being a Christian.
- ❖ Creed comes from the Greek *credo* which means “I believe”





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“I Believe”

The Apostles' Creed says:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord.

He 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 the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.





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Living for Jesus Christ

- ❖ God invites us through the Gospel to a lifetime of getting to know him better
- ❖ Prayer is the God-given way to respond to the knowledge of God and seek His will for our life
- ❖ Christian prayer is a response as a personal response to God's Word
- ❖ Prayer takes two forms: Private and Corporate
- ❖ Two patterns for prayer:
- ❖ First, follow in whole or part the Morning and Evening Prayer in the BCP
- ❖ Second, follow the pattern **ACTS**: **A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, **S**upplication
- ❖ Constant utterance of the "Jesus Prayer"
- ❖ The "Lord's Prayer" is at the center of the Christian life of prayer



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The Lord's Prayer



The Six Petitions

- ❖ Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
- ❖ Thy kingdom come,
- ❖ Thy will be done on earth as in heaven.
- ❖ Give us this day our daily bread
- ❖ Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
- ❖ Lead us not into temptation
- ❖ But deliver us from evil

The Doxology and Amen

- ❖ For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen



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Rule of Life



What: Devotional discipline in which we commit to grow in grace as we resist sin and temptation, and to order our worship, work and leisure activity as a pleasing sacrifice to God.

Why: Because our fallen nature is disordered, distracted and self-centered.

Anglican Rule of Life: The Church invites us to its life of Common Prayer which is a key part of our life of witness, service, and devotion of my time, money and possessions for God.



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Christian Behavior

❖ In Jesus Christ, God calls us to respond to him in 3 basic ways:

- I. By grasping God's revealed truth about Jesus with our minds
- II. By prayerful communion with God in and through Jesus
- III. By doing God's will primarily revealed to us in the word and example of Jesus

❖ Jesus teachings are inextricably linked to the Ten Commandments

❖ While given initially to the children of Israel, the Ten Commandments are to be impressed on the consciences of all people

❖ Keeping the divine law is a fundamental form of a new life into which we are brought to faith in Christ





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The Ten Commandments



- I. "I am the Lord your God, You shall no other gods before me."
- II. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them."
- III. "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain"
- IV. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."
- V. "Honor your father and mother."
- VI. "You shall not murder."
- VII. "You shall not commit adultery."
- VIII. "You shall not steal."
- IX. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."
- X. "You shall not covet."



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Living Our Life In Christ - Sanctification

- ❖ The reality of our humanity is that we can't keep the commandments
- ❖ Jesus, the unblemished Lamb, has offered himself to God, suffering death for our redemption upon the cross, which is the once for all "sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world." 1662 BCP and Hebrews 10:10,12
- ❖ Christ's obedience does not excuse us from personal obedience.
- ❖ Our sins are forgiven when we confess and ask for a pardon through Christ's blood.
- ❖ Confession and forgiveness is a lifelong journey because we are still broken due to sin.
- ❖ Jesus heals us through the gift and fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ This healing, a lifelong process, is called Sanctification.



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A Life In Christ As An Anglican



The Church's teachings, **sacraments**, **liturgies**, **seasons**, **ministry**, **oversight**, and fellowship assist our growth in Christ and are channels of God's abundant care for our soul.



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