

**Day 35 – The Creeds****Lord, help us clearly confess what we believe**

A creed is a statement of what a person or a group of people believes and teaches. There are three Christian Creeds: the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. The Apostles' Creed is used in most of Pilgrim's services, except Communion Sunday when we use the Nicene Creed. The Apostles' Creed sets forth our beliefs in three Articles; each Article tells us about the Father, Son or Holy Spirit and what they have done and continue to do to bless us and save us. May Pilgrim Lutheran Church continue to confess our faith boldly and hold to the pure Word of God in every aspect of our worship.

*But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:14-17*

**Prayer**

Heavenly Father, Blessed Son, Eternal Spirit, I adore you as one God in three distinct persons. Father, you have created me and the whole world, loved me and sent Jesus to redeem me; Jesus, you have loved me and assumed my nature, you shed your own blood to wash away my sins, and you lived with perfect righteousness in order to cover my shameful rebellion; Holy Spirit, you have loved me and entered my heart, you have given me eternal life, and you have made the glories of Christ known to me. Oh Triune God, who commands the universe, you have encouraged me to ask for those things that concern your kingdom and my soul. Let me live and pray as one who has been baptized into your threefold name – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

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**Day 36 – Prayer for our Pastor's Wife****Lord, bless her and encourage her in all she does**

Today we lift up Paula Schmeling in prayer. The stereotypical pastor's wife is supposed to always look nice, smile, sit down in the front row of church, and agree with her husband. Her kids need to be model Christians. The truth is that each pastor's wife is unique. Paula has a significant and challenging God-given opportunity to have influence for Christ at Pilgrim. She has been given the special grace and wisdom from God necessary to be our pastor's wife, with all its conflicting expectations and ministry stress. Pilgrim is so blessed to have Paula in our midst! May God continue to bless her as she carries out her special ministry here at Pilgrim.

*Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. I Thessalonians 5:12-13*

**Prayer**

Dear Lord, I ask for your richest blessings on Paula. She shares her home and heart with the Pilgrim congregation. Let her hear the Holy Spirit's leading in her own ministry. As she serves alongside her husband, give her patience with people and a heart for you. Keep her safe from the words of the accuser and those who would judge her. Let her know the truth: She is forever accepted just as she is in your hands. Make her believe the truth: she is perfect for this congregation. Let her feel loved today. Hold her close and heal any hurting parts. Continue to work in her the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, and peace. Give her hope in you and soothe her with the truth from your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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**Day 37 – Prayer for Church Revival****Lord, may our faith be kindled to serve you**

Our English word "revival" comes from a French word meaning "to have new life or live again." In the culture and context of the twenty-first century, the term "spiritual awakening" describes what was thought of as a genuine revival fifty years ago. Students of church history know that from time to time God sees fit to send revival to His church, often in answer to the prayers of only a few people who have laid themselves before God and pled with Him to bring a spiritual awakening to a church, a city, or a nation. Revival requires serious, focused prayer, asking God to bring a spiritual awakening. Revival in our churches is as near as our prayers. Not only Scripture but all church history shows that no revival can ever come any other way.

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18*

**Prayer**

Lord, we pray that you would purify the hearts and minds of Pilgrim's members so that our thoughts are ever turned toward Jesus. May we as individual members and also as a body of believers learn to seek your will in our lives, so that our prayers are filtered through the light of your will – so that they are tuned in to your perfect plans and purposes. May the Lord Jesus remain the central focus of the intent of our hearts. Lord we pray that you would revive the hearts of the members of Pilgrim and draw us into a right relationship with you and with each other. Revive your people we pray and turn the hearts of all your people back to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

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**Day 38 – Maundy Thursday****Lord, help us to love one another as you love us**

On Maundy Thursday our Lord invites us to kneel at His Table to receive His gift of grace in Holy Communion. "Maundy" is a strange name given to this "Thursday of Holy Week." The word "Maundy" is derived from the Latin word "mandatum" which means "mandate" or "command." It embodies the "new command" or "new mandate" given to the disciples by Jesus. The new mandate involved loving one another as He had loved them. Jesus defined the love that we are to have for one another by the love that he showed us. As Jesus loves us, so we are to love one another. The motivation and the ability to show such love comes only as we daily confess how unloving we have been and as we rejoice again in the undeserved love of our Savior's forgiveness. Showing Christ-like love for each other has a wonderful by-product. It acts like a magnet, drawing people to us and giving us an opportunity to point them to the one who has perfect love for them, Jesus.

*"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35*

**Prayer**

Dear Savior, who came not to be served but to serve, you washed your disciples' feet as a parting token of your attitude of willing humiliation. Before you performed the ultimate act of self-giving by offering your life as a ransom for the world, you also gave us a lasting testament of your loving sacrifice in Holy Communion. Teach me to treasure this Blessed Sacrament and your holy example. Move me to serve others as you served. Amen.

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## Day 39 – The Cross

## Lord, keep our eyes focused on the Cross

What Christ's death on the Cross and his Resurrection offers:

- It provides the bridge, the only way, to God. Because of Jesus, we have a personal relationship with the very God who made us and loves us more than we could imagine. Without the cross, there is no way to cross over the bridge and have a relationship with God. Any attempt will fail. He is the only way.
- It provides forgiveness of sins. Through the price that Jesus paid on Calvary, we are forgiven. He took our sin and shame upon his very shoulders. He took the blows on our behalf so we wouldn't have to suffer. Such incredible love! Such amazing sacrifice!
- It provides freedom to all those who believe. Freedom from the shackles of sin. Freedom from shame. Freedom from fear. Freedom from worry. Freedom from hopelessness. Freedom from despair. Freedom from addiction. Freedom from guilt. Freedom from darkness and eternal separation from God.
- It provides new life. We are not only forgiven and set free, but we have a whole new life and destiny through Christ. We are changed, from the inside. He renews our minds and spirits. He changes our hearts and desires. He gives us fresh purpose for every day set before us.
- When Jesus died on the cross, and was buried, it didn't stop there. The final picture of all that the cross provides lies in the powerful Resurrection of our Lord. He won! He didn't stay dead! His power broke through, and that same power is alive within us today. As believers, God gives us the power of the Holy Spirit, living and moving through us each day.

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6*

### Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for your great gift of love and sacrifice, so that we can live free. Thank you for the power of the Cross and the Resurrection. We ask that the truth of it all sinks deeply into our hearts and changes us forever. Fill us with your Spirit today. In Jesus' Name, Amen

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## Day 40 – A Blessing for God's People

## Lord, help us to walk with you every day

During these 40 days we have reviewed many aspects of the Pilgrim Lutheran Church Family and how God has richly blessed us through his Word and Sacraments, as well as through our fellowship with each other. As we prepare once again to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord tomorrow, take these prayers and blessings with you as you walk with Jesus every day of your life.

*"This promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away. It is for everyone the Lord our God calls to himself." Acts 2:39*

### The Blessing

Now may the God of grace and peace let his face shine upon you. Be aware of his relentless tenderness and devotion to you. Sense the power of his Spirit. Love one another as he has loved you. Give grace as he has given grace to you. Share the message of salvation with others as it has been shared with you. Go in peace.

**He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen!**