



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
10 Johnson Road, Chestnut Hill Estates
Newark, DE 19713
302-737-6176
www.ourredeemernewark.org
Rev. Dr. John Rickert, Pastor

OUR REDEEMER'S VOICE

MARCH 2018

The Year Turns

It happens every year, sometime in March. The year turns away from winter and to spring. Unless you are really into winter sports, it is a welcome change. Spring brings warmer weather, new life in flora and fauna, and longer days. Here at Our Redeemer, we can look forward to the blooming of our beautiful cherry tree.

We are, of course, in the middle of Lent. The season will end with Holy Week, the final week of March. Lent is a time of turning also. We turn from our sins and to the new life found in Jesus. Throughout the month, our Wednesday Lenten services will continue (7:00 PM), preceded by our soup suppers (5:45 PM). The theme of the messages is "The Shadow of Christ" in Old Testament stories. The question being addressed is, "How can we read the Old Testament stories in light of Jesus?" The upcoming stories are:

Wednesday, February 28

Sermon: The story of Joseph and his time in Egypt (Genesis 37, 39-47)

Wednesday, March 7

Sermon: The story of the fall of Jericho (Joshua 2, 6)

Wednesday, March 14

Sermon: The story of Sampson (Judges 13-16)

Wednesday, March 21

Sermon: The story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)

The month ends with Holy Week. The first Sunday in April (April Fools Day) is Easter Sunday (He Is Risen! No Fooling). Our Holy Week schedule will be:

Sunday, March 25 - Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion

Sermon: The Glory of God

Thursday, March 29 - Maundy (Holy) Thursday

Sermon: Shadow of the Lord's Supper

March 30 – Good (Holy) Friday

Sermon: Shadow of the Cross



Sunday, April 1 – Easter Day (The Resurrection of our Lord)

Sermon: He Is Risen! No Fooling

Our Easter service will be a half-hour later than usual (10:30 AM), allowing plenty of time for everyone to enjoy an Easter breakfast with our fellow redeemed (9:00 AM) and an Easter egg hunt!



It is a season of turning. We turn from the world, our sinful nature, and yes, the devil, and towards our loving Savior, Christ Jesus. This is something we poor sinners always need, for we are drawn away from Jesus every day by this unholy three. Turn towards Jesus in our many worship opportunities during this season of turning. Invite your neighbors, friends and family to turn with you. Turn to Jesus and receive his grace, his forgiveness, his great and precious gifts. His warm love is a welcome change from the cold of a life without the Son (sun). Turn to the new life that springs up in our very souls, by God's riches in Christ. Turn to the long days of God's good gifts.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor

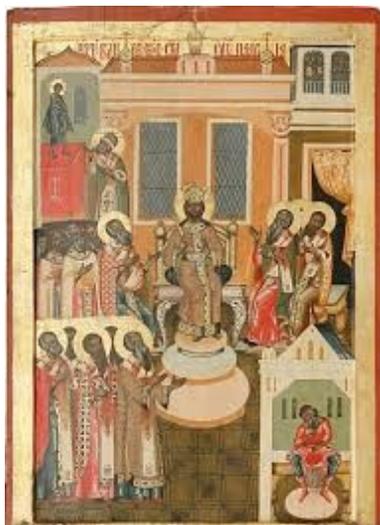
Digging In The Nicene Creed Introduction, Part 5

In this introduction to the Nicene Creed we have, so far:

1. Given some background on the other two ecumenical creeds (Apostles & Athanasian)
2. Given some preliminary historical background leading up to the first Ecumenical Council, held in the city of Nicene in 325 AD.
 - Part of that background was the establishment of the Christian Church as a legal religion
 - The rise of Arianism, and Arius' views concerning Jesus and the Trinity
 - The decision of Constantine to summon a council of bishops to settle the Arian dispute, and other issues, and who attended the council.



This month we will continue to fill in the background.



Arianism, while the most important topic to be considered, was not the only issue this council considered. There was a controversy over what was the proper day in the year to celebrate Easter, which was settled (we use the date this council determined to this day). A question about the validity of baptisms performed by heretics was settled. As baptism is an act of God and not of man, the faith (or lack thereof) of the person administering the baptism is of no importance. As long as the baptisms were Trinitarian, they were valid. In the long run, this was a great decision as we can never be sure of someone else's faith. There was a difference of opinion on how to treat people who had abandoned their Christian faith during the recent persecutions under Licinius and wanted to return to the Church. Meletius, bishop of Lycopolis in Egypt, and his followers, wanted quite harsh measures. His superior, Peter, Bishop of Alexandria, went with the historic, mild approach. The council decided Peter was correct. In remaining consistent, they also endorsed a rather mild approach towards Meletius. This proved unwise as Meletius simply joined forces with the Arians in opposition to true Christianity. A few other issues were also address, but these were the most significant.

Arius was present at the council and allowed to present his own views. The more he talked, the more his support van-

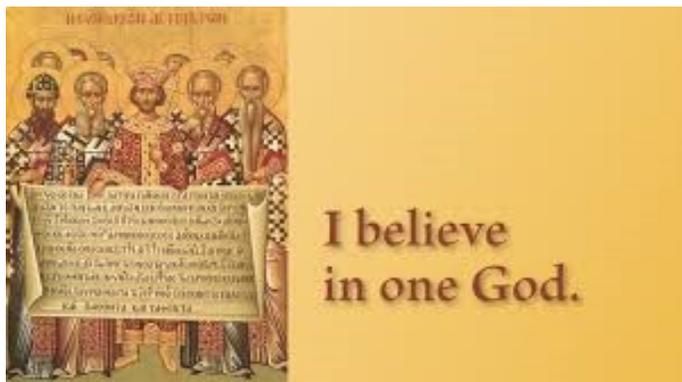
ished. There were audible gasps of disbelief from some of his initial supporters when they heard what Arius actually believed and taught. At one time, in order to make his point, he sang one of his songs. It was so sacrilegious that Nicholas of Myra (Santa Claus) got up and knocked Arius to the ground. For his display of passion, Nicholas was ejected.



Those present who were orthodox sought to reason with Arius. They cited all the now classic biblical passages in support of the Trinity and the eternal sonship of the Second Person of the Trinity, but to no avail. No matter what passage they presented, Arius had a new way to look at it, a way that twisted it into a lie. This is something heretics are always skilled at doing. In the end, the orthodox believers asked Arius if anyone before him had held his views. Arius had to admit, he was the first. As far as he was concerned, no one since the Apostles had properly understood these things. This included the people the Apostles themselves taught. So Timothy, Barnabas, and so many others, were wrong. Arius alone (and his followers) was correct. In the end, it was the very newness of Arius' teaching that settled the matter. Arius not only had new ideas, but those ideas rejected the truth once delivered by God to us and held by the Church since Apostolic Times (Jude 1:3). (A new idea is not necessarily a wrong idea, but if it rejects already established and known truth, then it is wrong.)

Things went even worse for Arius. The "Homoousians" did demonstrate, both from the scriptures and from the witness of earlier generations of Christians, that their understanding was sound. (Remember, the word "*homoousia*" comes from the Greek word translated "of the same substance (or essence).") This word was incorporated into the Nicene Creed and was seen as a bulwark against Arianism. (However, remember how heretics are able to twist words into meaning whatever they want. Well, after a decade or two, Arius did just that. It was his sudden and unexpected death that prevented him from confessing his the Nicene Creed, with its concealed, modified interpretation of the word *homoousia*, that prevented him from trying to reenter the Church.)

The council passed a creed which was the first step in the forming of our Nicene Creed. It was focused mainly on Jesus. What follows is that creed.



We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, only-begotten of the Father; that is, of the essence [*ek tes ousias*] of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father [*homoousion to patri*]; By whom all things were made both in heaven and on earth; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down and was incarnate and was made man; He suffered, and the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

And in the Holy Ghost.

But those who say: "There was a time when he was not;" and "He was not before he was made;" and "He was made out of nothing (*ex ouk onton*)," or "He is of another substance" (*hypostasis*) or "essence," or "The Son of God is created," or "changeable," or "alterable"—they are condemned by the holy catholic and apostolic Church.

It was a good start. Nonetheless, it had room for improvement. That is what happened at the Second Ecumenical Council, held in Constantinople in 381 AD.

Next month we will look at that council. Until then, may "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14). Amen.



Some Thoughts From LW

Read Luke 4:16—30

TEXT: And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as was His custom, He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and He stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Him. He unrolled the

scroll and found the place . . . And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4: 16– 17, 21)

Do you respect the Bible? That’s kind of an insulting question, isn't it? Not too many people would say no, especially people in the church'

Jesus certainly respected the Bible. In this passage, we read that He was invited to preach in the synagogue in His home town. so He took the scroll of Isaiah and unrolled it nearly all the way to the end, found His passage, and read it aloud to the group. Then He started preaching on it.

Think for a moment. Here is God Himself God in the flesh, planning to preach and He starts by reading the Bible to the people. He doesn't say, "Well, I'm here Myself today, so I'll just speak directly and bypass the Scriptures—they're not necessary." No, He sets the example Himself by using the text and sticking to it. It is as if God said, "I myself value the Bible, and I won't even speak to you without using it. If I value it so much, you should do so, too."

When we stick to our favorite passages, its easy to value the Bible. The people of Nazareth had no problem listening to Jesus read about helping the oppressed and setting captives free. It reminded them how much God cared about them.

But there was a problem when Jesus turned to other bits of the Bible. He mentioned the prophet Elijah, who helped a poor foreign widow and the prophet Elisha, who healed a man from Syria. Suddenly the Bible lesson wasn't going so well any more. What, the God of Israel, helping foreigners instead of His own people? Are we supposed to respect that?

They didn't. Instead, they tried to throw Jesus over a cliff.

Ultimately, they wouldn't respect the Bible. But Jesus did. And as He went on His way, He fulfilled every single promise in the Old Testament about the savior who would rescue us all from sin and death. And now that He has risen from the dead, He continues to fulfill His promises. He saves everyone who trusts in Him and gives us eternal life.

THE PRAYER: Lord Holy Spirit, help me to treasure the Bible and to grow through it’s daily use. Amen

Arlen D. Besel – Ambassador

Through The Worship Window

Our Church Year Concludes Lent In March:

March opens with the third Sunday in Lent where we re-live Jesus clearing the temple of merchants. In Exodus we read God’s law provided through Moses. Our look at John continues by reminding us of Moses use of the bronze snake that heralds the best known verse in the Bible; John 3:16; ‘for God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.’

Our message then changes to Mark’s Gospel where we begin to hear the Lord tell of Him coming death and resurrection. There too He reminds us that He came to serve and we too should serve.

This leads us to Palm Sunday and the triumphant trip to Jerusalem when Jesus is hailed as King of Israel as recorded in John’s Gospel. Palm Sunday is also called the Sunday of Passion and includes the Lord’s Supper and Jesus before Pilate.

We will celebrate Maundy Thursday with the record of Jesus’ introduction of the Holy Eucharist. This leads to



Good Friday where we are carried through Jesus death on the cross in payment of our sins.

The Holy Week observance includes John's depiction of Jesus arrest, Peter's denials, and the final sentencing and His crucifixion.

This year Easter comes on the first day of April as the climax of the Lenten devotions.

Let's consider the other messages for this month by looking at the Epistle lessons.

At the outset, Paul's letter to the Corinthians reminds us that the cross is foolishness to those who do not believe, but is power and wisdom to the saved. A similar message is in Ephesians where Paul reminds us that we are made alive in Christ as a result of His suffering on our behalf.

In Hebrews we are taught that Christ is our High Priest and represents us in God's presence.

Paul's letter to the Philippians urges us to imitate the Lord's humility in our lives.

The Epistle lessons end with a reminder of the Lord's role to grant us salvation through His grace that is ours through faith alone.

Arlen D. Besel – Worship



Opportunity!

"Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say." Exodus 4:12 (NASB)

"Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person." Colossians 4:5-6 (NASB 1977)

Do you find it difficult to share your faith in Jesus with others? That is a common occurrence. It is easy to talk about our favorite sports team, car, food, vacation spot, etc., but so hard to speak about our eternal hope in our crucified and risen savior!

Sometimes, for me, I am afraid of not having the right words or answers to questions. I even become tongue-tied, awkward, and paralyzed! I'm kind of like Moses, I guess; he wanted God to send someone else to bring the Israelites out of Egypt, anyone else to speak to Pharaoh! Yet God promised to be with Moses' mouth, giving him the words needed for the salvation He had prepared. The same is true for us today, each and everyone God has granted faith in Jesus; the Holy Spirit gives us courage and the very words to speak. Armed with so great a promise, we look for opportunities to share God's great love.



Opportunities abound, but we need a direction; we know the goal: salvation by faith in Jesus. It is also important to create an atmosphere of love, care, and respect in our efforts to let others know about God, especially in an age when most Americans are bombarded with differing opinions about what is truth, and are suspicious and guarded with anyone who claims to know the truth, especially Christians, sadly.

This does not negate our responsibility to love others by telling them about Jesus. It does change how we engage them. The emphasis of iNeighborhood is creating ongoing relationships in our neighborhoods and communities so that we may be heard when we share the gospel message.

On Sunday, March 4, there will be an open meeting, headed by the Evangelism Board, to plan out how we as a congregation will reach out with the love of God in Christ Jesus in an ongoing relationship within our community. This is a 3- to 5-year plan that will be implemented at once; we will move forward in faith, making the



most of the opportunities God provides.

Please come to this meeting! Bring your ideas of where you want this congregation to be in five years. Do you want to see more young people? Do you hope for a revitalized Sunday School? How are we going to reach out to those people with the gospel? The meeting will follow directly after the worship service. I pray you will attend; if you cannot, please send your ideas via email to pastor or Kitty.

Kitty Rickert, Evangelism Chair



Congregational Life

Our Lenten soup suppers continue each Wednesday evening in March through 3/21. Please join us!



Easter Sunday breakfast, April 1, 2018 9:15 AM



Come and enjoy our Easter breakfast and children's Easter egg hunt. This will be held before the Sunday morning service (10:30 a.m.). We will have a variety of casseroles and breakfast foods available. Please plan to attend with family and friends to celebrate and rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

If you would like to participate a sign-up sheet will be available for food and attendance.

All our welcome! Please contact me if you have any questions at (302) -737-3234 or e-mail (wbesteder@aol.com).

God's blessings to all, Congregational Life, Lina Besteder

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Sundays	8:45 a.m.	"Be filled with the Spirit"
Tuesdays	10:00 a.m.	Book of Revelation
Thursdays	10:00 a.m.	Hymn Study: context, theology & history

NOTE: Due to lack of interest, BAB (Build-A-Bag) has no additional schedule for sleeping bag construction until Fall 2018.

Bulletin & Newsletter Information Date

Please have all information for the bulletin into the office no later than Tuesday of each week. Newsletter info is due no later than the 20th of each month to ensure its inclusion. Thanks!

Renewal Time—Portals of Prayer

It's that time of year again! Time to renew or add subscriptions to *Portals of Prayer*, a daily devotional guide. You can renew or add subscriptions by emailing the secretary (orlcde@outlook.com) or filing out a subscription form in your Sunday bulletin. Thanks, and good reading!

BIRTHDAYS

13 Carl Kruelle

13 Erika Bates

25 Donald Hartwig

If your birthday or anniversary is missing from this list, please email your information to me at: secretary.orlcde@outlook.com.



ANNIVERSARIES

MILITARY BIBLE STICKS



For only \$25, you can give a listening device with an audio drama New Testament and selected Psalms to a member of our Armed Forces. Please make checks payable to ORLC and write "Bible Sticks" in the memo. Thanks!



Easter Plants

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for ordering Easter plants to beautify our sanctuary. Orders and payment must be made by Sunday, March 18. Make checks payable to ORLC; memo line notation: "Easter Plants". Thanks.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Sunday, March 25 - Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion

Sermon: The Glory of God

Worship Service—10 a.m. with Communion

Thursday, March 29 - Maundy (Holy) Thursday

Sermon: Shadow of the Lord's Supper

Worship Service—7 p.m. with Communion

March 30 – Good (Holy) Friday

Sermon: Shadow of the Cross

Worship Service—Tenebrae (Service of Darkness) 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 1 – Easter Day (The Resurrection of our Lord)

Sermon: He Is Risen! No Fooling

Worship Service—10:30 a.m. with Communion

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

MARCH 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Serving: Each Sunday – Pastor. Rev. Dr. John Rickert Bible Class: Arlen Besel Sun. Sch.: Robin Billy & Rebecca Tedal Organists: Julie Hockersmith, David Rash	Serving: 3/4 – Comm. = Kevin Gerzevske Usher = Dennis Boon & Jim Rose Lector = Robin Billy Greeter(s) = Erika Bates Acolyte = Rebecca Tedla Altar = Carla Fiske Flowers = Milt & Mitzi Steltz	Serving: 3/11 – Usher = Guitom & Noah Tedla Lector = Charlu Schott Greeter(s) = Bob & Bonnie Johnston Flowers = Len & Charlu Schott 3/18 – Comm. = Bob Johnston Usher = Milt & Mitzi Steltz Lector = Hertha Langford Greeter(s) = Milt & Mitzi Steltz Acolyte = Noah Tedla	Serving: 3/18 cont'd Altar = Carla Fiske Flowers = Gary & June Weaver 3/25 – Comm. = Arlen Besel Usher = Paul Hockersmith & Bob Johnston Lector = Kitty Rickert Greeter(s) = Kitty Rickert Altar = Robin Billy (3/29 Maundy Thu = Bonnie Johnston) Flowers =	Winkel, Dover, all day	Pastor's day off	3
Lent 3 4 Bible Study, 8:45 am; Worship, 10 am; Open Meeting, Evangelism, after worship	5 CHECA meeting, 7 pm	6	Lent 4 7	Bible Study, 10 am	Pastor's day off	10
Lent 4 11 Bible Study, 8:45 am; Worship, 10 am; Hymn Sing after service	12	13	Lent 5 14 Soup supper, 5:45 pm; Worship, 7 pm	Bible Study, 10 am	Pastor's day off	17
Lent 5 18 Bible Study, 8:45 am; Worship, 10 am; Easter plants orders/pmt due	19	20	Lent 6 21 Soup supper, 5:45 pm; Worship, 7 pm	Bible Study, 10 am	Pastor's day off	24
Passion/Palm Sun. 25 Bible Study, 8:45 am; Worship, 10 am;	Holy Monday 26	Holy Tuesday 27	Holy Wed 28 Soup supper, 5:45 pm; Worship, 7 pm Worship, 7 pm	 Maundy Thursday 29 Worship w/Communion, 7 pm	Good Friday 30 Tenebrae Service, 7 pm	Holy Saturday 31