

THE FAITH OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH

“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.” — John 3:16

The Faith of the Armenian Church

The Faith of the Armenian Church is transmitted through the church’s Holy Tradition, that is, the ongoing life of the church from the time of Christ to our times. The Bible, liturgy and worship, writings of the church fathers, church councils, saints, canons, religious art and rituals (organically linked together) formulate the Holy Tradition of the Church. This Faith is articulated in the Creed of the Armenian Church, the formal declaration of beliefs, which in turn defines the church’s *raison d’être* and sets the parameters of its mission and functioning (13).

The Armenian Church professes her faith in the context of her worship. Theologically, whatever the church believes, the church prays (14). As such, the Armenian Church’s worship and liturgy constitute a prime source for teaching and living her faith. Tradition, on the other hand, defines and formulates the “articles of faith” and transmits them from generation to generation.

As articulated in the Creed, the Armenian Church believes in One God, the Father Almighty who is the Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. Humanity (male and female) (15) is created in the image and likeness of God (16), and as such is a special creature. However, because of the fall of man, sin entered the world (17).

The Church believes in Jesus Christ, “the only begotten Son of God, who came down from heaven, was incarnate, was born of the Virgin Mary, by the Holy Spirit.” He became man, suffered and was crucified, and was buried. He rose again from the dead on the third day and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.

The Armenian Church believes in the Holy Spirit, uncreated and perfect, who proceeds from the Father, and together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified. The Holy Spirit spoke to the prophets and apostles and descended into the Jordan River, witnessing Christ’s Baptism.

The Armenian Church is One, Holy, Apostolic, and Catholic Church (18). She believes in one Baptism (19) with repentance for the remission and forgiveness of sins. On judgment day, Christ will call all men and women who have repented to eternal life in His Heavenly Kingdom, which has no end. Christ overcame the power of death with His own death and gave salvation to all mankind.

The dogmas of the Armenian Church are based on these “articles of faith.”

The Nicene Creed is the official declaration of the principal doctrines of the Church.

The Nicene Creed:

“ We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, the maker of heaven and earth, of things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the begotten of God the Father, the Only-begotten, that

is of the essence of the Father.

God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God,
begotten and not made; of the very same nature of the
Father, by Whom all things came into being, in
heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.

Who for us humanity and for our salvation came
down from heaven, was incarnate, was made human,
was born perfectly of the holy virgin Mary by the
Holy Spirit.

By whom He took body, soul, and mind, and
everything that is in man, truly and not in semblance.
He suffered, was crucified, was buried, rose again on
the third day, ascended into heaven with the same
body, [and] sat at the right hand of the Father.

He is to come with the same body and with the glory
of the Father, to judge the living and the dead; of His
kingdom there is no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, in the uncreated and
the perfect; Who spoke through the Law, prophets,
and Gospels; Who came down upon the Jordan,
preached through the apostles, and lived in the saints.

We believe also in only One, Universal, Apostolic,
and [Holy] Church; in one baptism in repentance, for
the remission, and forgiveness of sins; and in the
resurrection of the dead, in the everlasting judgement
of souls and bodies, and the Kingdom of Heaven and
in the everlasting life.