

Worksheet 13
“The World To Come”
Reading and Worksheet

Please prayerfully and slowly read the Nicene Creed, and then watch the videos, read the article below, and answer the questions.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty ,maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. **I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

Baptism is not repeated because it marks the person with a permanent spiritual seal. Baptism gives new life in the Holy Spirit, and This is why the Church teaches that the spiritual seal is *permanent* and cannot be repeated. Even when a baptized Christian later falls into sin, the grace of Baptism remains a lasting covenantal bond, calling the person back to repentance through the Sacrament of Confession. When a baptized Christian later falls into sin, the grace of Baptism remains for it is a lasting covenantal bond, calling the person back to repentance, healing, and communion with God.

The Resurrection of the Body

The resurrection of the body means that, at the end of time, our souls will be reunited with glorified bodies. Just as Christ rose from the dead, so too those who belong to him will be raised up. This naturally leads to many questions. **What will our resurrected bodies be like?** Will we appear as we did in youth, in old age, or at some other stage of life? **What of those who died in childhood, or those whose bodies were marked by sickness, injury, or disability?**

The resurrection of the body is real, but the exact manner of that transformation remains a mystery. It is a mystery in the Christian sense in which it is not a puzzle to be solved through rational intellect, but through God's revelation. It is something true, but greater than our minds can fully grasp. **One helpful analogy is that of an acorn.** If you had never seen an oak tree, you could hardly imagine that such a small seed could become something so large, strong,

and beautiful. Yet that is precisely what happens. In a similar way, our earthly bodies are like seeds. **What is raised by God will be far more glorious than what we now know.**

Even so, another question remains: **if the body is not raised until Christ returns, what happens to the soul at death?** The answer to this question is that the soul enters immediately into a particular judgment and goes toward one of three destinations: **purgatory, heaven, or hell.**

Purgatory

Purgatory is the final purification of those who die in God's friendship but are not yet perfectly purified from any remaining attachment to sin, selfishness, or disorder. It is not a "second chance" after death, nor is it a place separate from salvation. Rather, it is part of the saving work of God, preparing the soul for the full joy of heaven. God is perfectly holy, and nothing unclean can enter into the fullness of his presence. Therefore, **God in his mercy purifies us so that we may be ready for heaven.**

An image may help. Imagine heaven as pure, crystal-clear water. Even a small impurity would stand out. In a similar way, the remnants of sin must be cleansed before the soul is ready for perfect union with God. That is the purpose of purgatory: not condemnation, but purification.

Purgatory also shows us that God is both merciful and just. **In his Mercy, God forgives sin. In his Justice, God heals and sets right the disorder sin has caused.** Forgiveness does not mean that the effects of sin are unreal or unimportant. God does not merely overlook our sins. **God transforms us, purifies us, and restores what has been damaged.**

If, in this life, we have wounded others through sin, selfishness, or neglect, then we need to be held accountable. Part of our purification includes truly seeing those sins and the pain and heartache our sins have caused others and desiring God's forgiveness. Purgatory is not opposed to God's love; **Purgatory is an expression of God's love because God desires to make us capable of entering into heaven.**

Watch this video for more details [Here](#)

Heaven

Heaven is not merely a place "up above." It is the perfect state of communion with God, the fullness of life, love, truth, and joy. To be in heaven is to see God face to face and to live forever in his presence. **What the Catholic Church calls the "Beatific Vision"**. Even in this life, we catch faint glimpses of such joy: the beauty of creation, the experience of profound peace, the love of another person, the sense of wonder before something truly good and beautiful. Heaven is like this, but infinitely greater. Every longing of the human heart finds its fulfillment in God.

Hell

Hell is the definitive state of separation from God, who alone is the source of life and love. The Church teaches that hell is real, but it is important to understand it rightly. **God does not delight in condemning anyone. Rather, Hell is the result of a person definitively rejecting God's mercy and love.** God created us with freedom, because love must be freely given and freely received. **If a person continually refuses God, clings to pride, and rejects repentance, then that person chooses separation from God.** Since God is the source of all joy, peace, and

fulfillment, such separation is the deepest possible loss. Hell, then, is not about God's cruelty, but about the terrible seriousness of human freedom. **God desires the salvation of all, yet he does not force his love upon anyone.**

The Life of the World to Come

The Creed does not end simply with the destiny of individual souls. The Creed ends with the renewal of all creation. God will not abandon what he has made. He is the Creator, and his plan is not destruction, but transformation. Sacred Scripture gives us this vision very clearly in the Book of Revelation:

- “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away... I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God... I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.’”
(Revelation 21:1–4 RSV-2CE)

This is the “life of the world to come”: a new creation in which sin, death, suffering, and disorder are no more. **Heaven and earth will no longer be divided. God will dwell with his people in a new and glorified creation.**

In some ways, this fulfills what was first hinted at in Eden, where God dwelt with humanity. Yet the life of the world to come will be greater still, because it will be the completion of God’s saving plan in Christ. The highest joy of that new creation will not be merely the absence of

suffering, but the fullness of God's presence. **We will live forever in the love for which we were created.**

Worksheet 13 Questions

If you need help answering the questions you may look at the answer sheet but please put it in your own words, and do not copy word-for-word what is on the Answer Sheet

Why does the Church teach that Baptism cannot be repeated, even if a baptized person later falls into sin?

What does the resurrection of the body mean?

What analogy helps us understand the resurrection of the body?

What is purgatory?

What is heaven?

What is hell?

What is meant by “the life of the world to come”?