

Lutheran FAQ:

What Do Lutherans believe about Jesus and Salvation?

The Second Article of the Apostle's Creed: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

What does the Jesus story mean for your daily life?

Quoted from *Luther's Small Catechism*.
Translated by Tim Wengert, published by Augsburg Fortress.

The Apostles' Creed is clear that Jesus is both fully human and fully God. When you talk to God, does it help you to know that God has been through human life? _____

Jesus is at the core of our faith. How is he the center of a person's life? _____

Jesus is 100% innocent and has never sinned. But he suffered and died anyway, because this world was broken by human sin. What does it say about God that God went through this so that we can belong to him? _____

Jesus has "purchased and freed" you with his life. God values you that much. How can you take care of your important self and life? _____

Written by the ELCA South Carolina Synod to accompany the video "Lutheran F.A.Q. | What Do Lutherans Believe About Jesus And Salvation?" found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFRr2XBfLzw>

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The creed is clear that Jesus is fully human and fully divine. Why are both parts important for the work Jesus has done? _____

Pontius Pilate's name anchors the Jesus story in history. How do the historical events of your life shape your faith? Where have you asked hard questions about God? Where has your faith been deepened?

Jesus is 100% innocent and has never sinned. He suffered and died anyway, because this world was broken by human sin. What does it say about God that God went through this so that we can belong to him? _____

Jesus has "purchased and freed" you with his life. God values you that much. How can you take care of your important self and life? How can we show that care for our neighbors? _____

Deeper Dive:

- Check out the section on the Creed in the *Large Catechism*. (It's in the Book of Concord.)
- David Lose teaches well about Jesus' divine and human nature in his chapter "God con Carne" from *Making Sense of the Christian Faith* (Augsburg Fortress, 2010).

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