

The Apostles' Creed: Second Article

[I believe] in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

The Savior in the State of Humiliation

(Read **Philippians 2:5–11**). It's unclear, but some scholars believe that these verses were an ancient song of the church that Paul was quoting. Others think that he wrote these originally and they became a hymn of the church. This passage is sometimes given the title "The Hymn of the Humiliation and Exaltation of Jesus Christ." I want to talk about that first part today.

Two weeks ago, we talked about how Jesus has two natures, that He's fully divine and fully human. He is fully God because He is the Son of God from eternity. And from the time that the Creed says: *He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary*, His divinity took on humanity and they were united for eternity. From the time of His birth to the time of His death, He lived in the state of humiliation. This means His divine glory and powers were hidden. As Paul said: *He emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men, being found in human form* (**Philippians 2:7–8a**).

Today, we celebrate the Transfiguration of Jesus, when He went up a mountain with Peter, James, and John, and was transfigured before them. He changed and began to glow, and His clothes became dazzling white, as we read in the Gospel lesson. They got a tiny glimpse of His glory.

His state of humiliation is important. Paul goes on to say that Jesus *humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross* (**Philippians 2:8**). The whole point of His coming and being in His state of humiliation was to die for our sins. If He had not done that, we could not be saved.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for coming to the earth in Your state of humiliation to die for us and save us from our sins. Amen.