

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 Names Jesus and Christ

In the Second article of the Apostles' Creed, we confess our faith in the Son of God, our Redeemer. It is fitting on this 4th Sunday in Advent that we consider His names, *Jesus* and *Christ*. He has many titles, a few of them listed here, in the **Explanation**: Angel of God, Redeemer, Immanuel, Son of the living God, Son of Man, the Word, and Lord. Each title tells us something *about* Him, but His names tell us who He is. They are not first and last names, like "Joe Smith", even though we do use them together. Both names have meaning.

The angel told Joseph, "*She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins*" (**Matthew 1:21**). The name *Jesus* means "the Lord saves." This is His personal name.

Christ (Greek) or *Messiah* (Hebrew) means "the Anointed one." Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit at His Baptism, when the Spirit descended in the form of a dove (see **Matthew 3:16**; **Mark 9:10**; and **Luke 3:22**). **Acts 10:38** tells us why He was anointed. *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.* He is the Christ for His work. All prophets, priests, and kings were anointed as a sign of being set apart for their work. Jesus was the Christ (the Anointed One) to set Him apart and empower Him to be our Prophet, Priest, and King.