

## Statement of Faith

Adel Malek

**Trinity:** I believe in the Triune God: One in essence and Three in Persons. God the Father is the Creator, Sustainer and Provider. Christ Jesus, the Son, crucified to atone for our sins and rose again for our righteousness. The Holy Spirit convicts us for sins, comforts, challenges, and sanctifies us. All three Persons of the Trinity are coequal, eternally coexistent, and have the same attributes. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three persons of the Trinity, who in their relationship with each other are also one God.

**Christ:** I believe in Christ Jesus of Nazareth, the Word of God alive. He is my Lord and my Savior. He is God incarnate. Jesus came to teach, heal and redeem us. Because of his love to us and through suffering on a cross, though without sin, he reconciled us with God and freed us from the slavery of sin, justifying us by his grace. The unblemished sacrifice triumphed over death and rose again. I believe in Christ's bodily resurrection, which gives us hope for a new creation and faith in him and in eternal life. Jesus Christ is the head of the church. He will come again to judge all humans.

**Holy Spirit:** I believe that the Spirit points to God's self-revelation in the person of Jesus and operates to make the knowledge of Jesus Christ known. This can be seen in relation to inspiration, interpretation and proclamation of the Scriptures, and the Spirit's work in relation to salvation by illuminating sinners and giving them the gift of faith in Jesus Christ. In the Christian experience, faith is followed by the ongoing indwelling of the Spirit in the church and in the lives of Christians, leading, guiding, comforting, challenging and equipping God's people to serve Jesus Christ. When the church carries out its mission and ministries in the world, we see the Spirit's work to make the gospel of Jesus Christ known in word and in deed. The Spirit gives us varieties of gifts, not to keep, but to show God's love and hope to others.

**Church:** I believe that the Church is holy because the head of the church is Jesus Christ. Although all the members of all churches are sinners, we are saved by God's grace in Jesus Christ. We are holy because of Christ's work, not ours. The church is also catholic, i.e., universal and one because we unite ourselves in a fellowship of believers with others who are disciples of Jesus Christ, and because we have one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. The visible church is the community of Christians who outwardly profess their faith in Christ. The invisible church extends through the ages and includes those who entered into the "church triumphant." The church is a community that is sent into the world by Jesus Christ to represent the reign of God's kingdom through its service and through the proclamation of the Gospel.

**Scripture:** I believe in the authority of the Bible, the Word of God written, which includes both the Old and New Testaments. The Scriptures are inspired by the Holy Spirit and given to humanity through human writers. This means that through Scripture God's self-revelation is conveyed to us. The same Spirit, who inspired the Scripture writers, helps us in interpreting and proclaiming the Bible. Scriptures principally teach who God is, what we are to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of us. God's Word, both alive (Jesus Christ) and written (the Bible), has the power to transform and nurture humanity. Our confessions should be studied in the light of both the Bible and their historical context.

**Sacraments:** I believe that Jesus instituted the sacraments of baptism, in the name of the Triune God, and the Lord's Supper (Eucharist), to remember Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. The Sacraments are outward signs and seals for an inward reality, which is God's grace. They are signs of God's covenant or special relationship with us. In Christ's life, death, resurrection and ascension, he has given us the gift of salvation. Persons of faith in the church are strengthened in their faith when we see these signs of salvation enacted in worship. Sacraments are God's gracious gift to remind us of our salvation in Christ.

**Salvation:** I believe that Jesus atoned, by his work on the cross, for my sins and elected me before the foundation of the earth by grace through faith. He calls us for salvation, for ministry, life and service and sanctifies us through the Spirit. Now, we have "eternal life" through God's gift in Jesus Christ. This is the gospel, the good news of our salvation. I believe that "once saved, always saved," which also means "perseverance of the saints." This belief depends on God's faithfulness and according to God's promises.

**Christian Life and Hope:** I believe that our ultimate hope is that Jesus will come again to judge all humans. Then, we will have resurrected bodies controlled by the Spirit and we will live forever on a new earth. Until he comes again, and to give away this hope to others, we are to be agents of justice, give to the poor, pray for the sick, defend those who cannot defend themselves and be a voice for the voiceless.