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Act of Thanksgiving to the Trinity

Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)

*O Deity eternal, o eternal Trinity,
Who through the union of divine nature
Made good for my purchase the incredibly great price
of the blood
of Your one and only Son!*

*You, eternal Trinity,
You are a kind of boundless sea,
in which so much the more I seek,
the more I find;
and the more I find,
the more I seek*

You.

*You, in a way that does not last,
satisfy my spirit;
since in Your depth You satisfy my soul
in such a way that it always remains
thirsting and hungry,
wishing for You, eternal Trinity,
and desiring to see You,
light in Your light.*

*I have tasted and seen
with the light of understanding,
Your depth in Your light, eternal Trinity,
and the beauty of Your creature.*

*Therefore, by gazing at myself
in You,*

*I have seen that I will be Your image . . .
Indeed when You, eternal Father,
 bless me from Your power
 and Your wisdom,
 that wisdom that was appropriately
 given to Your one and only Son.
Truly, the Holy Spirit,
 Who proceeds from You, Father,
 and from Your Son,
 has given me a will through which He makes me
 suited for loving.*

*For you, eternal Trinity,
You are the maker,
 and I
 am that
 which was made.
From this,
 with You illuminating my understanding,
I recognized in the new creation
 that You made of me
 through the blood of Your one and only Son,
 that You have been seized
 by love
 for the beauty of what You made.*

*O depth!
 O eternal Trinity!
 O Deity!
 O boundless sea!
What greater gift were You able
 to give me
 than Yourself?*

*You are fire Who always burns
 and are not consumed.
You are the one Who consumes with Your heat*

whatever there is of selfish love in the soul.
You are again the fire Who takes away
all coldness
and You illumine minds with your light,
with that very light with which
You made me to know Your truth.
In the mirror of this light
I recognize *You*
the highest good,
good above all good,
fortunate good,
incomprehensible good,
beauty above all beauty,
wisdom above all wisdom,
because You are wisdom itself.
You are the food of angels

Who with the fire of love
Have given Yourself to mankind.

You are the garment (my nakedness) covering.
You feed us who are hungry
with Your sweetness,
with which You are sweet
beyond all bitterness.

O eternal Trinity!

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Some readers will have heard the Apostles' Creed recited in a solemn tone and in a formal setting. Such readers may find a surprise in the language and format of this translation, in which I felt led to take special care in the arrangement of words on the page. To use the words of translator Stanley Lombardo, by "choreographing them for the eye," I hoped to evoke some of the feelings and to highlight certain key features that I have experienced while praying this creed. Readers accustomed to its more formal and liturgical use may find it refreshing to engage it in a different style.

Apostles' Creed

I believe

*in God the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived from the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell,
on the third day rose again
from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty,
from where He will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the flesh,
the life everlasting.
Amen.*

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Glory

Hilary of Poitiers (d. 368)

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH PEACE TO MEN OF GOOD WILL

*We praise You, we bless You,
we adore You, we glorify You,
we give You thanks
because of Your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty Father God.*

*Lord one and only Son, Jesus Christ,
Lord God,
Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
You Who take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.
You Who take away the sins of the world,
accept our prayer.
You Who sit at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.*

*Since You alone are holy,
You alone are Lord,
You alone are the Highest,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

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Hours of the Holy Cross

To be prayed at the beginning of all Hours

*Through the sign of the cross
from our enemies
set us free, our God.*

*Lord, You will open my lips,
And my mouth will declare Your praise.*

*O God, stretch forth for my help.
Lord, hurry to help me.*

*Glory to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and always will be,
Into the ages of ages.*

At Matins, the start of day

*The wisdom of the Father, the divine truth,
the One Who was both God*

*and man,
was seized at the morning hour.
Quickly abandoned by the disciples closest to Him,
betrayed by His own people the Jews,
sold,
and knocked down.*

*O cross, worthy of honor, who brought salvation to those in misery, with what praise
shall I lift you up, since you have prepared for us life among the heavens?*

At Prime, the first hour of the day, 6:00 a.m.

*At the first hour they lead the Lord,
much accused by false witnesses,
to Pilate.*

*With their fists they strike Him
while his hands are bound.*

*They spit on the face of God,
the pleasing light
of heaven.*

*O victory of the cross and sign worthy of wonder, make us desire our triumph in the
court of heaven.*

At Terce, the third hour of the day, 9:00 a.m.

*"Crucify!"
they cry out at the hour of the third watch.*

*Mocked, He is clothed with garments
of royal purple.*

*His head is pierced
with a crown
of thorns.*

*He carries on his shoulders a cross
to the place of punishments.*

The punishment of bloody death is condemned so long as Christ has shattered on the cross our chains of sin.

At Sext, the sixth our of the day, noon

*At the sixth hour Jesus was nailed to the cross,
and hanging there He was counted
with the thieves.*

*Parched because of torture, He was given gall
to slake His thirsting.*

The lamb, washing away our guilt, was mocked.

*Through wood we were made slaves and through the holy cross we have been set
free: the fruit of the tree led us astray; the Son of God purchased us again.*

At Nones, the ninth hour of the day, 3:00 p.m.

*At the ninth hour Lord Jesus breathed out His last.
Crying, "Eli!"*

*He entrusted His
Spirit to
His Father.*

A soldier pierced his side with a spear.

*The earth shook then,
and the sun
grew dark.*

O great work of piety: death died at the point when life was dead on the cross.

At Vespers, evening time, 6:00 p.m.

*He is taken down from the cross
at the evening hour.*

*His strength lay hidden
within His divine mind. The cure for life
underwent such a death.*

Alas, the crown of glory lay on the ground.

O blessed cross, you who alone were worthy to carry the weight of the world: sweet wood bearing sweet nails and such sweet weight: above all the wood of the cedars, you alone are higher: on which the salvation of the world did hang, on which Christ has triumphed, and death has overcome death into eternity.

At Compline, just before sleep

*At the hour of Compline
the noble body
of Christ
is given to burial,
the hope of future life
is embalmed
with spice.*

*The Scriptures are fulfilled.
This death becomes for me
my one concern
ever
to remember.*

Savior of the world, save us, You Who through Your cross and Your blood have redeemed us. Help us, we beg of You our God.

To be prayed at the end of all hours

We adore You, Christ, and we bless You, because You have redeemed the world through Your holy cross.

Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God, put Your suffering, cross, and death between Your judgment and my soul, now, and in the hour of my death. And may You be pleased to pour on me Your grace and mercy, on the living and dead rest and pardon, on Your church peace and harmony, and on us sinners life and eternal glory, You, God, who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, throughout all the ages of ages. Amen.

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Lord Jesus, Let Me Know Myself

Augustine (354-430)

Lord Jesus,

<i>let me know</i>	<i>myself,</i>
<i>let me know</i>	<i>You,</i>
<i>nor let</i>	<i>me</i>
<i>desire anything except</i>	<i>You.</i>
<i>Let me hate</i>	<i>myself</i>
<i>and love</i>	<i>You.</i>

I shall do all things because of You.

<i>Let me humble</i>	<i>myself</i>
<i>and exalt</i>	<i>You.</i>

Let me think of nothing except You.

<i>Let me die to</i>	<i>myself</i>
<i>and live in</i>	<i>You.</i>

Whatever happens I shall accept from You.

<i>Let me persecute</i>	<i>myself,</i>
<i>let me follow</i>	<i>You,</i>

and may I always wish to follow You.

*Let me flee from myself,
let me flee toward You,*

so that I may deserve to be defended by You.

*May I fear for myself,
may I fear You,*

and may I always be among those chosen by You.

*May I distrust myself,
may I have faith in You.*

*Let me be willing to obey
for the sake of You.*

*May I be attached to nothing
except to You,*

*and may I be poor
for the sake of You.*

*Call me,
that I may see You,*

*and that I may enjoy
You*

into eternity. Amen.

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O Good Cross

*O good cross,
 who took on glory from the limbs of the Lord,
so long desired,
so diligently loved,
sought without ceasing and
once prepared ahead of time
 for the desiring soul,
receive me from among the people
and return me to my Master,
so that through you He may receive me,
Who through you has redeemed me. Amen.*

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*upon me, Lord Jesus Christ,
eternal King,
God and man,
crucified because of man.*

Hear me as I hope in You.

Have mercy upon me,

I who am full of miseries and sins,

You Who will never stop the flowing fountain of mercy.

Hail, saving sacrifice,

offered for me and all the human race

on the wood of the cross!

Hail, noble and precious blood,

flowing forth from the wounds

of my crucified Lord, Jesus Christ,

and washing away the sins of the world!

Remember Your creation, Lord,

which You have repurchased with Your blood.

I repent that I have sinned

and I desire to make right what I have done.

Take from me, therefore,

most merciful Father,

all my iniquities and sins

so that, purified in mind and body I

may be worthily deserving to taste

the holy of holies.

And grant that this holy offering

of Your body and blood,

which I, being unworthy, intend to take up, be

the remission of my sins,

the complete cleansing of my faults,

that which puts to flight my shameful thoughts

and is the regeneration of good purposes,

and the wholesome working out of works pleasing to

You,

and also the strongest protection of my soul and my body

against the plots of my enemies.

Amen.

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Prayer of Saint Bonaventure

(1221-1274)

*Stab through,
 dearest Lord Jesus,
 the marrow and flesh of my soul
with the sweetest
and most healing
wound of Your love,
with the true, clear, and most holy
devotion of the apostles,
so that my soul may always grow faint
and weak
solely for the love and desire of You.
May it long for You
and fall down in Your halls,
may it desire to be dissolved
and to exist with You.
Make it so my soul hungers for You,
 the bread of angels,
 the restoration of holy souls,
 our daily bread
 without which we cannot live,
 containing every sweetness
 and savor and every delight o
 pleasantness.*

*May my heart always hunger for and consume
You,
on Whom the angels long to look,*

*and may the flesh of my soul be filled again
with the sweetness of Your savor.*

May it always thirst for *You,*
the fountain of life,
the fountain of wisdom
and knowledge,
the fountain of eternal light,
torrent of pleasure,
richness of the house of God.

*May it always go round about You,
seek You, find You, stretch out toward You,
come to You, dwell on You, speak to You,
and work out all things*
to the praise and glory of Your name
with humility and discernment,
with love and delight,
with ease and devotion,
with perseverance until the end,

that You alone may always be
my hope,
all my confidence,
my wealth,
my pleasure,
my happiness,
my joy,
my rest and tranquility,
my peace,
that which is pleasant to me,
my fragrance,
my sweetness,
my food,
my restoration,
my refuge,

*my help,
my wisdom,
my portion,
all that I possess,
my treasure,*

*in Whom may my heart and mind
always be rooted unshakably, fixed and firm.
Amen.*

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Self-Dedication to Jesus Christ

Ignatius of Loyola (1491 - 1556)

Take, Lord, all my freedom.

*Take my memory,
my understanding,
and all my will.*

*Whatever I have or possess,
You have granted to me.*

All this I give back to You

*and I wholly hand over to Your will
all rule.*

*May You give me only
a love of You,
along with Your grace,
and I am rich enough,
nor do I ask for anything more. Amen.*

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Sweetest Jesus, Redeemer

*Sweetest Jesus, redeemer of the human race,
look back on us who are fallen down
most humbly before Your face.*

*We are Yours, we want to be Yours;
but may we be able to be joined
more firmly to You than this.*

*Behold, today each of us dedicates,
of his own free will,
himself to Your most sacred heart.*

*Indeed many have never known You;
many have rejected You,
with your commands despised.*

*Have mercy on both kinds of people,
most merciful Jesus,
and carry all of them off to Your sacred heart.*

*Be king, o Lord,
not only of the faithful
who at no time have departed from You,
but also of those prodigal sons
who have abandoned You.*

*Make it so they may quickly seek again
the home of their Father,
lest they die in misery and hunger.*

*Be king of those
whom either the error of opinions*

*holds deceived,
or discord holds apart from*

the body of Christ,

and call them back

*to the gate of truth and
to the unity of the faith,
so that soon there may be
one sheepfold and one Shepherd.*

Grant, O Lord, to Your church

*freedom secure from harm;
grant to all nations tranquility of order;
bring it about that from each pole of the earth
one voice may resound.*

*May there be praise to Your divine heart,
through which salvation
has been born for us,*

to which be glory and honor into the ages. Amen.

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Take From Me My Heart of Stone

Baldwin of Canterbury (d. 1191)

Take from me, Lord,

my heart of stone,

take away

my hardened heart,

take away

my uncircumcised heart.

Give me a new heart,

a heart of flesh,

a clean heart!

You, the cleaner of the heart and the lover of the clean heart,

possess my heart

and dwell in it,

holding it together

and filling it,

higher

than

my

highest

and

more deeply

than

my

innermost.

*You, the very shape of beauty
and the image of holiness,
seal my heart in Your image.*

*Seal my heart beneath Your mercy,
God of my heart
and God my portion into eternity.
Amen.*

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To Jesus Christ, the Crucified

Behold, I, o good and sweetest Jesus,

Throw

myself

down

on my knees

before

Your face

and with the greatest burning of spirit

I beg

and implore

You

that You would wish to imprint onto my heart

the living senses of faith, hope, and love

and a true repentance of my sins

and the strongest desire to make

amends,

While with great love and pain of spirit

I ponder to myself

and contemplate in my mind

Your five wounds,

holding before my eyes

that which the prophet David

once placed in Your mouth

about You,

o good Jesus:

"They have defiled my hands and feet, they have counted all my bones." (Psalm 22:17)

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We Adore You

Francis of Assisi (d. 1226)

*We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here and in all Your churches, which are in the
whole world, and we bless You; because
through Your holy cross You have redeemed
the world. Amen.*

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We Praise You, God

Nicetas, Bishop of Remesiana (4th century A. D.)

We praise You, God:

we confess that You are Lord.

All the earth honors the eternal Father.

To You all the angels,

to You the heavens and universal powers,

to You the Cherubim and Seraphim

shout forth with unceasing voice:

***Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts!
The heavens and earth are full of the
majesty of Your glory.***

You the glorious choir of the Apostles,

You the praiseworthy number of the prophets,

*You the snow white army of martyrs
praises!*

The holy church throughout the world confesses

that You are the Father of immense majesty,

that Your true and only Son must receive honor,

and that the Holy Spirit is our Comforter.

*You are the King of glory,
O Christ.*

*You are the eternal
Son of the Father.*

*As You were about to take on the freeing of mankind,
You did not fear the womb of a virgin.
You,*

when the sting of death had been taken away,

opened up the kingdoms of the heavens

to those who believe.

*You sit at the right hand of God,
in the glory of the Father.
You are believed to be the Judge Who is to come.*

*Therefore we beg You,
help Your servants,
whom You have redeemed
with Your precious blood.*

*Make Your people safe, Lord,
and bless Your inheritance.
Both rule them and raise them up
into eternity.*

*Every day we bless You.
We praise Your name forever and ever beyond that.
Think us worthy on that day to protect us without sin.
Have mercy on us, Lord,
have mercy on us.*

*Let your mercy be upon us, Lord,
as we have hoped in You.*

*In You, Lord, I have hoped:
Let me never be put to shame.*

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