

Call to Worship

Pastor: The threat of persecution is always a possibility for the Christian.

People: The history of Christianity reveals that aspect of the Christian faith repeatedly.

Pastor: Our Lord would have us believe that such an experience is an opportunity to witness to others, rather than worry about what will happen to us.

People: We believe we are in God's care; therefore we do not want self-concern to hinder the testimony of our faith.

Prayer of Confession:

Our faith is very dear to us, Father, and we would not want to be denied our freedom of religion.

But when we feel threatened by those who do not agree with our faith, or who argue with our beliefs, we back off in silence, or try to avoid them.

We are not very strong with our witness, even in the simplest forms of persecution.

Forgive us for our fears which hinder an effective witness in defense of our faith.

Give us courage and words to share our convictions.

In our Savior's name we pray. Amen.

I believe in God
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;

And 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, dead,
and buried;

the third day he rose
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to
judge the quick 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 body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Glory Be to the Father

WORDS: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.

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Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen. Amen.