

I believe...

In God,

Creator of everything.

I believe God created me in God's image.

In shadows, I often hide from God in sinful thoughts, words, and deeds.

Of what I have done, and what I have left undone.

Therefore, I tarnish the image of God.

Yet, through God's incredible love for me, Love, which I cannot turn from, Love, which finds me in the darkest corners of my sinful life, Love that God promises will never be withheld,

Therefore...I believe ... that with justice and mercy, that God through Jesus Christ will deliver me from death to a union of life eternal.

I proclaim...

In order to reveal God's love to us, Emanuel - *God with us* - came to earth fully human and fully divine.

I proclaim Jesus lived a sinless life like no other person, before or after.

I proclaim Christ came to us and

...Announced the good news of the Kingdom of God.

...Ministered to the poor, the hungry, the sick and the prisoned.

...Performed many miracles.

Despite these acts of love and compassion, Jesus was rejected. Christ was unjustly crucified,

However, through his suffering and death, Jesus took away the sins of the world.

Miraculously, God raised Jesus from the dead.

Jesus reigns today and forever at God's right hand, saving us from our sinful life.

Therefore ... I proclaim ... that only through the grace of our Lord Jesus is this eternal union realized.

I am certain...

That emanating from God and Jesus, the flame of the Holy Spirit warms others and me in communion.

The Holy Spirit frees me to love the Lord my God, and my neighbor;

This same Holy Spirit invites me to come to know my Lord and Savior Jesus.

The Holy Spirit speaks to me through the Holy Scriptures, God's Word.

The Holy Spirit connects me through other members of Christ's church.

The Holy Spirit cleanses me through Baptism and dwells in me when I receive the bread and the cup at the Lord's Table.

And the Holy Spirit empowers me to live a life that Jesus calls me to follow.

Therefore ... I am certain ... through such faith - *and not of any doing of my own* - that I am justified for eternal union with God.

Through such Belief ... Proclamation ... and Certainty, nothing in life or death can separate me from the love of the Triune God, whom alone we worship and praise.

Praise be to God.

Amen.