

*The Confession of the Faith of John Warne,
Citizen of London, which he wrote the day before he was burned,
on the 30th of May A.D. 1555.*

“I believe in God the Father Almighty, and maker of heaven and earth.”

“A Father, because he is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the everlasting Word, whom before all worlds he has begotten of himself. This Word was made flesh, and in this was also manifested to be his Son; in whom he has adopted us to be his children, the inheritors of his kingdom. And therefore he is our Father; an Almighty God, because he has of nothing created all things visible and invisible, both in heaven and on earth, even all creatures contained in it, and he governs them.”

“And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord.”

“The eternal Word, perfect God with his Father, of equal power in all things, of the same substance, of like glory, by whom all things were made, and have life, and without whom nothing lives. He was made also perfect man, and so being very God and very man in one person, he is the only Savior, Redeemer, and Ransomer of those who were lost in Adam, our forefather. He is the only means of our deliverance, the hope of our health, the surety of our salvation.”

“Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary.”

“According to the Father’s most merciful promise, this eternal Son of God, forsaking the heavenly glory, humbled himself to take flesh from a virgin, according to the Scriptures, uniting the substance of the Godhead to the substance of the manhood, which he took from the substance of that blessed Virgin Mary in one person, to become in this the very Messiah, the anointed King and Priest, forever appointed to pacify the Father’s wrath, which was justly gone out against us all, for our sin.”

“Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, and descended into hell.”

“He was arraigned before Pontius Pilate, the ruler of Judea, and unjustly accused of many crimes, of which the ruler judged him innocent, and sought means to deliver him. But contrary to known justice, he let Barabbas go, who had deserved death, and delivered Christ to be crucified, who deserved no death; who declares to us manifestly, that he suffered for our sins, and was buffeted for our offenses, as the prophets witness, thereby to have it manifested to all men, that he is that Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. Therefore suffering for our sins, he received and bore our deserved condemnation, the pains of death, the state of abjection, the very terror of hell, yielding his spirit to his Father, his body to be buried on earth.”

“The third day he rose again from death to life.”

“To make full and perfect the whole work of our redemption and justification, the same crucified body which was laid in the grave, was raised up again the third day from death, by the power of his Father, and glory of his Godhead. He became the first fruits of the resurrection, and got the victory over death, that by him all might be raised up from death. Through whom all true penitent sinners may now boldly come unto the Father, and have remission of their sins.”

“He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.”

“After he had conquered sin, death, and the devil, in his death and resurrection, and had been conversant forty days on the earth, being seen by the apostles and more than five hundred brethren at once, in the same body in which he wrought the work of our salvation, he ascended into heaven with eternal triumph, for the victory over death, sin, and hell, leaving the passage open, by which all true believers may and shall enter into his kingdom, where he now sits at his Father’s right hand, that is, equal in power and glory, co-eternal in majesty.”

“From there he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.”

“He shall appear again in great glory to receive his elect to himself, and to put his enemies under his feet, changing all living men in a moment, and raising up all who are dead, that all may be brought to his judgment. Then he shall give to each man according to his deeds. Those who have followed him in regeneration, who have their sins washed away in his blood, and are clothed with his righteousness, shall receive the everlasting kingdom, and reign with him forever; and those who according to the race of the corrupt generation of Adam have followed flesh and blood, shall receive everlasting damnation with the devil and his angels.”

“I believe in the Holy Spirit.”

“I believe that the Holy Spirit is God, the third person in the Trinity; in unity of the Godhead equal with the Father and the Son, given through Christ to inhabit our spirits, by which we are made to feel and understand the great power, virtue, and loving kindness of Christ our Lord. For he illuminates, quickens, and certifies our spirit, that by him we are sealed up until the day of redemption, by whom we are regenerate and made new creatures; so that by him and through him we receive all the abundant goodness promised to us in Jesus Christ.”

“The holy catholic church.”

“This is a holy number of Adam’s posterity, elected, gathered, washed, and purified by the blood of the Lamb from the beginning of the world, and is dispersed through the same by the tyranny of Gog and Magog; that is to say, the Turk and his tyranny, and antichrist, otherwise named the bishop of Rome, and his angels, as this day also teaches.”

“The Communion of Saints.”

“This most holy congregation (being, as St. Paul teaches, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ being the head corner-stone), though it is persecuted by the tyranny of Satan and his ministers — some by imprisonment, some by death, and some by other afflictions and painful torments — yet it remains in one perfect unity, both in faith and fellowship. This unity is knit in an unspeakable knot, of those who are departed from this mortal life, as well as of those who are now living, and hereafter shall be in the same, and so they shall continue until they all meet in the kingdom, where the head, Jesus Christ, with all his holy members, of which number, through Christ, I assuredly believe I am one, shall be fully complete, knit, and united together forevermore.”

“The forgiveness of sins.”

“I believe that my sins, and all their sins who rightly believe the Holy Scriptures, are forgiven only through Jesus Christ, from whom alone I profess that I have my whole and full salvation and redemption, which St. Paul says comes not through our works and deservings, but freely by grace, lest any man should boast. ^{Eph 2.8,9} Through the blood of the cross, all things in heaven and earth are reconciled, and set at peace with the Father; without Him no heavenly life is given, nor sin forgiven.”

“The resurrection of the body.”

“I believe that by the same, my Savior Christ, I and all men shall rise again from the dead; for as St. Paul says, ‘He is risen from the dead, and has become the first-fruits of those who slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.’ ^{1Cor 15.20-21} This man is Christ, through the power of whose resurrection I believe that we shall all rise again in these our bodies; the elect clothed with immortality to live with Christ forever; the reprobate also shall rise immortal to live with the devil and his angels in death everlasting.”

“And the life everlasting.”

“Through the same Jesus, and by none other, I am sure to have life everlasting. He alone is the way and entrance into the kingdom of heaven. ‘For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ This life I am sure to possess as soon as I am dissolved and departed out of this tabernacle. And in the last day, both my body and soul shall possess the same forever, to which God grant that all men may come.

“I believe that the sacraments, that is to say, of baptism and of the Lord’s Supper, are seals of God’s most merciful promises towards mankind. In baptism, just as by the outward creature of water I am washed from the filthiness which hangs on my flesh, so I assuredly believe that I am washed clean from my sins by Christ’s blood, through which I have sure confidence of my salvation. In partaking of the Lord’s Supper, as I receive the substance of bread and wine — the nature of which is to strengthen the body — so by faith I receive the redemption wrought in Christ’s body broken on the cross, life by his death, resurrection by his resurrection, and in brief, all that Christ in his body ever suffered for my salvation — to the strengthening of my faith in the same.

“And I believe that God has appointed the eating and drinking of the creatures of bread and wine in his holy supper according to His word, to move and to stir up my mind to believe these articles above written.

“This is my faith; this I believe; and I am content by God’s grace to confirm and seal the truth of the same with my blood.

“JOHN WARNE.”