

Lutherans and Other Denominations

Ancient Traditions

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Doctrine

Creeds

Nicene Creed is most important
Apostles and Athanasian Creeds are also valid

Seven Ecumenical Councils (300-700 AD)

Developed doctrinal standards
Held in Nicaea, Ephesus, Chalcedon, Constantinople

Salvation - Faith and works are essential for salvation

Confession of Dositheus: *We believe that man is justified not simply by faith alone, but by faith which is active through love, that is, through faith and works.*

Mysteries (Sacraments)

Mysteries are necessary for salvation

Orthodox Mystery:

*Rites instituted by Christ
to convey the grace of God
invisibly through visible signs
and bring to men the regenerating,
justifying and sanctifying grace.*

Lutheran Sacrament:

*A sacred act ordained by God
through which He brings grace to men
through external means
connected with His Word.*

B

C

E

Transubstantiation

Leavened bread is dipped into wine and spooned into mouth

P

HO

Major Orders

Minor Orders

M

HU

Miscellaneous

Saints and Angels

The Holy Liturgy

Little congregational involvement

Church Buildings

Look eastern with central dome and spires

Disagreements with Roman Catholicism - A few examples:

Reject pope as the sole "vicar of Christ on earth" and papal infallibility (one of 5 peers)

Honor Virgin Mary, but reject dogmas of Immaculate Conception (sinless) and the Assumption

Revere the cross, saints and angels, but reject teaching of surplus merits of the saints and indulgences

Dead and living pray for each other, but there is no purgatory (where souls are cleansed before heaven)

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Roman Catholic

Statistics

Largest Christian body on earth - 1 billion members (50% of Christians - was 58% 20 yrs ago)
62 million in United States (30% of Christians)
Second largest religious body on earth
1565 - First Catholic parish in US - St. Augustine, Florida
1633 - Maryland founded by Lord Baltimore
At end of Revolutionary War - 20,000 Catholics in US, 15,800 lived in Maryland

Pope

314 - Title first used for bishop in Rome
Claims succession from Peter
Cardinals
Bishops
Priests
1870 - Papal Infallibility
Statements are final, irreversible and from God
Concede that some popes were not in union with Christ
Pope John Paul II (1978-2005) was the first non-Italian pope since 1520s (from Poland)

Doctrine

Scripture

Official version is Latin by Jerome (Vulgate), Accept the Apocrypha
The Church, not the Bible, is the rule of faith
Bible has no authority over the church - John 21:25

Traditions

Given to the church by Christ and apostles through word-of-mouth
More authority than the Bible - See "Doctrinal Deviations" on next page
Since no man can be certain that his reason and intellect has correctly interpreted theology, he must look to the Church for correct interpretation of religious facts.

Creeds

Accept Apostles, Nicene, Athanasian and Creed of Pius IV from the Council of Trent (1545-1563)
Council of Trent summarized doctrine in direct opposition to the Lutheran Reformation
Nicene proves that only the Roman Catholic Church is valid
One
Holy
Catholic (universal)
Apostolic

Salvation

Must be a member to be saved - *It is necessary to salvation that every man should submit to the pope*
Salvation is received at baptism; may be lost by mortal sin; can be regained through penance
Saved by grace
Grace

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Sins

Two Types of Sin

Venial

Mortal

Mortal sins must be repented, forgiven by the priest and paid for on earth or in purgatory

Purgatory - Pays for venial sins and unpaid punishment debts

Indulgences

Reduce suffering time in purgatory

Sacraments

A Sacrament is: an external sign, tied to the Word, which brings invisible grace, and was instituted by Christ
Absolutely necessary for salvation

B

Essential for full salvation

Anyone may baptize in an emergency, water is not required

C

E

Transubstantiation

P

Required at least once per year

HO

M

Marriage of a Catholic to a Protestant

Mixed marriage requires a dispensation or marriage is invalid

Marriage by a non-Catholic minister requires a dispensation or marriage is invalid

Code of Canon Law, 1983 – *the Catholic party ... must promise to do all in his or her power to have all the children baptized and brought up in the Catholic church.*

EU

May be dead for a few hours

Miscellaneous

Sacramentals

Items or actions used with prayers to obtain favors

Veneration

Mass (Worship)

Doctrinal Deviations

593	Purgatory	1226	Adoration of the host	1600	Scapulars
754	Temporal Power	1229	Bible on Index of Forbidden Books		(wearing them saves people from hell)
1075	Mass clergy divorce forced	1302	Supreme power of pope in church and state	1854	Immaculate conception of Mary
1100	Money for masses			1864	Separation of church & state condemned
1184	Inquisition	1415	Cup denied to laymen	1870	Papal infallibility
1190	Sale of indulgences	1545	Tradition given equal authority as Bible	1950	Assumption of Mary
1215	Transubstantiation	1545	Justification by faith alone condemned		(taken bodily into heaven - never died)

Closing Prayer

Class materials are available at www.biblestoriesforadults.com/denominations