

MOSES CREEDAL FORMULA

Rev. John Vrana

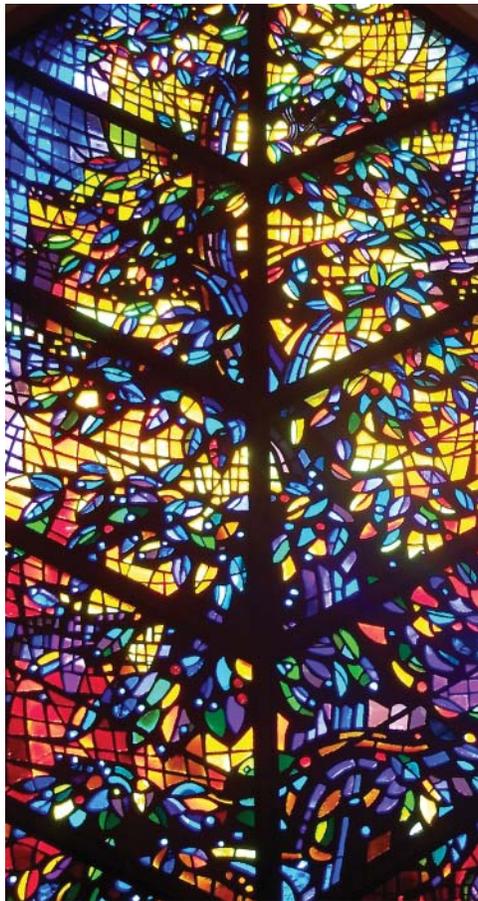
In our first reading, Moses offers God's people a creedal formula which they are to recite again and again until it becomes rooted in their hearts and in their being. It is to be a constant reminder of God's gracious mercy that delivered them from enslavement and led them to freedom. It is to be the guiding force to maintain their fidelity with God.

The two creeds which are offered for our use at Sunday Masses are similar in their intent as was the Mosaic creed. But the Creed is not just a list of essential doctrines. It is a living testimony to the beliefs embraced by millions of Christians today and through the centuries who found in those words the Truth, the Way, and the Life offered by the Son of God.

In the gospel, the evangelist Matthew presents Jesus as standing before, confronting, and facing down the devil.

Jesus does so in his human nature and, as such, represents all of humanity. He is presented to us as "gospel," the good news of how powerful we are while united with Him when we are confronted by the evils of the world, or by our personal inner demons. These demons the

Church has traditionally named, the Seven Capital Sins. The Lenten season provides an opportunity for us to review how well we have been facing down the devil. Or have we given in, believing we are powerless?



Pope Francis wrote, "When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive." Accordingly, the season of Lent presents a special opportunity to be embraced by God's mercy.

For those who may be moved by God to experience the healing balm of His forgiveness through confession and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, this Sacrament is available in parishes at various times and often with extended prayers. So as to cast the net of God's merciful forgiveness as widely

as possible, this Sacrament will be available in every parish church throughout the diocese on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Please consider this opportunity for God's mercy and bring a loved one to join you.

