

Gregory Penza**Statement of Faith**

I believe in the one triune God who created humankind to enjoy and worship God. God displayed infinite wisdom and power by creating the world good. In God's likeness, God created Adam and Eve. They were created free and righteous. They chose to rebel and hide from their Creator. Since Adam and Eve, all people have failed to love God and neighbor. God responded by calling Abraham and Sarah to be a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. God extended God's covenant to Israel who God elected to make a light unto all nations. Israel willingly entered God's covenant at Sinai, but they worshipped false gods instead of the one true God. From God's chosen people, God sent His only Son our Lord, Jesus Christ. Through the life of Jesus Christ, God showed a broken world God's immeasurable love. The greatest became a servant of all. Both fully God and fully human, the sinless Christ was condemned and crucified. Through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, God decisively defeated sin and death once and for all. God raised Jesus from the dead and in doing so God delivered us from death into eternal life. The God of all mercy and grace elected to live and reign with His children from every nation, tribe, and tongue forever. This is the Good News! God acts in love to redeem and reconcile the world through Jesus Christ. Today, God's people continue to receive the grace of God through the Sacraments that were instituted by Jesus Christ. Baptism is a sign and seal that engrafts us into Christ's body. At the baptismal font, we are cleansed of sin, publicly claimed as God's children, as well as regenerated by the Holy Spirit to walk in new life. As partakers in the Supper, we participate in Christ who binds us to himself, nourishes our souls, and strengthens our faith. The Church remembers the crucified body and shed blood while looking forward to the heavenly banquet with the risen Christ. Having received the grace of God through Jesus Christ, God empowers the Church through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is equal to God the Son and God the Father in substance and power. The Spirit is God's Presence within all believers. The Holy Spirit inspires believers to witness among all peoples, to pray without ceasing, repent from sin, confess Jesus Christ is Lord, and to obey the Scriptures. I believe that all Scripture is inspired by God and written by the prophets and apostles. Scripture leads people to a saving faith in Jesus Christ and a life that glorifies God. The Church that is led by God's Word is called to follow Christ into the world and to pour out Christ's blessings. Clothed in humility, love, and power; the Church continues Christ ministry to the earth. We do this by proclaiming liberty, welcoming the outcasts, binding up the broken, and making disciples of all nations. Our lives belong to Christ so we live to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed until Christ comes again in his glory.