

The Assembly/Executive Commission has approved this proposal for its study, use and comment and has called for comments to be sent to the Convenor of the Confessions Task Team – July 2013

Voorgestelde Afrikaanse Vertaling van die Niceense Geloofsbelydenis

[For rationales for the details of this translation see both the endnotes attached to the proposed English translation in the previous Appendix and the endnotes below specific to the Afrikaans translation.]

Ons glo in een God, die Vader,
die Heerser oor die heelal,
die Skepper van hemel en aarde,
van alles, sigbaar en onsigbaar;
En in een Here, Jesus Christus,
die eniggebore Seun¹ van God,
van ewigheid af uit die Vader gebore,
Lig uit Lig, ware God uit ware God,
gebore, nie geskape² nie,
van dieselfde wese as die Vader³,
en deur wie alles tot stand gekom het,
wie ter wille van ons mense en ons verlossing
uit die hemel neergedal het,
deur die Heilige Gees uit die maagd Maria vlees geword het,
en mens geword het,
wat ter wille van ons onder Pontius Pilatus gekruisig is,
tot die dood toe gely het,⁴ en begrawe is,
op die derde dag opgestaan het,⁵ in ooreenstemming met die Skrifte⁶,
na die hemel opgevaar het,
wat aan die regterhand van die Vader sit,
en met heerlikheid weer sal kom
om die lewendes en dié wat gesterf het⁷ te oordeel;
aan sy koninklike heerskappy sal daar geen einde wees nie;
En in die Heilige Gees, die Here en die Skenker van die lewe,
wat van die Vader [en die Seun] uitgaan,
wat met die Vader en die Seun saam aanbid en saam verheerlik word⁸
en wat gespreek het deur die profete;
en aan⁹ een, heilige, katolieke¹⁰ en apostoliese Kerk.
Ons bely een doop tot vergifnis van sonde.
Ons sien uit na die opstanding van dié wat gesterf het¹¹,
en die lewe in die komende era¹².
Amen.

Endnotes: to the Afrikaans translation

¹ Gk *ton huion ton monogenē*. The question in Afrikaans is whether this should be rendered “eniggebore Seun” or “enigste Seun”. The 1933/54 version of the Afrikaans Bible favoured “eniggebore” in Jn. 1:14,18, 3:16,18 and I Jn. 4:9; the lexicographers persuaded the translators of the 1983 version to favour “enigste” in these texts (as well as in Lk. 7:12, 8:42, 9:38, Heb. 11:17). But see the discussion of this in the endnotes of the proposed English translation in the previous Appendix.

- ² More precisely the Greek means the slightly looser word "gemaak", or "made".
- ³ The NGK version of the Creed translates *homoousion tō patri* as "van dieselfde wese met die Vader", the Dutch version as "wezenseen met de Vader" and the German version as "eineswesens mit dem Vater". One Afrikaans rendering the Committee considered is "een wese met die Vader". The problem with this, however, is that like "one being with the Father" it renders the compound adjective *homoousion* as a noun and so can be understood in a Sabellian, or "modalistic", sense. Therefore we prefer the more literal and exact translation "van dieselfde wese met die Vader". See the discussion on this in the endnotes of the proposed English translation in the previous Appendix.
- ⁴ The Greek reads just *kai pathonta*, but *paschein* sometimes means, as here, "to suffer death", so that the Afrikaans translation here expresses the intention exactly. (See W. Bauer *et al.*: *Greek English Lexicon*, p.633f.)
- ⁵ The phrase "according to the Scriptures" in the Greek comes after the words *kai anastanta tē titē hēmera* ("and was raised on the third day") and therefore refers either to this whole clause or else specifically to "the third day".
- ⁶ The plural "Skrifte" is a more literal rendering of the Greek, *tas graphas*, than "Skrif".
- ⁷ Four alternatives were considered here: "die dode", "die dooies", "die ontslapenes" and "die wat gesterf het". In the end the last (which is used in the present Afrikaans rendering of the Apostles' Creed) was felt to be the least problematic.
- ⁸ This more literal translation of the Greek works in Afrikaans, whereas an English parallel would be clumsy.
- ⁹ The different prepositions in "Ons glo *in* die Vader..." and "En *aan* een...Kerk" make a neat distinction in Afrikaans.
- ¹⁰ The German Lutheran tradition influenced the Dutch and in turn the Afrikaans Churches to substitute "algemene" in their translation of the Creed; but "algemene" catches only one aspect of the meaning of *katholikē*. On this see the extensive discussion on "Should we Drop the Word Catholic?" in the *Papers for the 8th General Assembly 2008*, p.317-320.
- ¹¹ See footnote 7.
- ¹² The Task Team wrestled with the question what Afrikaans word should be used to translate the Greek *aiōnos* and eventually resolved on this.