

Three Icons of “The Trinity” — Which is correct?



1950's Icon in our
Iconostasion



1990's Icon at the Entrance
of our church



Famous Icon by Andrei
Rublev, ca. 1410



“Hospitality of Abraham” Mosaic at Church of San Vitale in Ravenna, 6th c.
Genesis Chapter 18, with addition of Genesis 22 (sacrifice of Isaac)

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it.” (*Hebrews 13:2*)



I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth....

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father, through whom all things were made....

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified....

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth....

the spirit (ruah) of God / a wind from God hovered/ swept over the face of the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. (*Genesis 1:1-3*)

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness...” (*Genesis 1:26*)

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre... He [Abraham] looked up and saw three men... (*Genesis 18:1-2*)

Then the men set out from there... and Abraham went with them to set them on their way. The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do...?” (*Genesis 18:16*)

But note: And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham... The two angels came to Sodom.... (*Genesis 18:33 & 19:1*)

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“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,” says the Lord, the one who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

(Revelation 1:8 & 22:13)

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. (or, I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE) ... Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.... The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham... has sent me to you.’

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations....”

(Exodus 3:14-15)

καὶ εἶπεν ὁ θεὸς πρὸς Μωυσῆν ἐγὼ εἰμι ὁ ὢν
(Exodus 3:14 in LXX version)

The Pantokrator in the ceiling of our church

In the beginning was the Word (ὁ λόγος), and the Word was with God (πρὸς τὸν θεόν), and the Word was God... All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. (*John 1:1,3*)

Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.” (*John 8:58*)

“The Father and I are one.” (*John 10:30*)

“... the Father is in me and I am in the Father.”
(*John 10:38*)

... Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself... (*Philippians 2:5-7*)

He is the image of the invisible God... in him all things in heaven and on earth were created... (*Colossians 1:15*)

He is the radiance of [God’s] glory and the exact representation of his being (ὑπόστασις)... (*Hebrews 1:3*)



Some key words

Physis, ousia, homoousios

Hypostasis

Perichoresis

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another παράκλητον (Helper, Comforter, Advocate), to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth.... You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.” (*John 14:16-17*)

“When the παράκλητος comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds (ἐκπορεύεται) from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.” (*John 15:26*)

“He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any they are forgiven...” (*John 20:22-23*)

...You are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (*Romans 8:9*)

Now the Lord is the Spirit... And all of us... are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. (*2 Corinthians 3:17-18*)



“O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, present everywhere and filling all things, Treasury of blessings and giver of life, come and abide in us and cleanse us of all impurity, and save our souls O Good One.”