

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM*

Declaration of God's Promises

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are united by a common faith in Jesus Christ. The power at work in this community does not come from our own strength but from God's Spirit working in us. Claiming God's promises, we remember again God's gracious love for us and recommit ourselves to joyful life together in Christ.

Profession of Faith

Through baptism God gave us a gracious sign of love and hope in Christ. Hear again the promises God has made to us in Christ. Baptism is the sign and seal of God's promises to this covenant people. In baptism God promises by grace alone to forgive our sins, to adopt us into the body of Christ, the Church, to send the Holy Spirit daily to renew and cleanse us, and to resurrect us to eternal life. This promise is made visible in the water of baptism. Water cleanses, purifies, refreshes, sustains; Jesus Christ is living water. Through baptism Christ calls us to new obedience: to love and trust God completely, to forsake the evil of the world, and to live a new and holy life. Yet, when we fall into sin, we must not despair of God's mercy or continue in sin, for baptism is the sign and seal of God's eternal covenant of grace with us.

Questions to the Baptized

I invite you to stand....

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of evil that rebel against God?

I renounce them!

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

I renounce them!

Do you turn to Jesus Christ?

Yes! I trust in him as my Lord and Saviour.

Do you intend to be Christ's faithful disciple, trusting his promises, obeying his Word, honouring his church, and showing his love, as long as you live?

Yes! God helping me.

* A mildly adapted version of the liturgy found beginning on page 284 of The Worship Source Book, CRC Publications, 2004.

The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
and he is seated on the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

You have publicly professed your faith. Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Prayers Of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

We give you thanks, O holy and gracious God, for the gift of water. In the beginning of creation your Spirit moved over the waters. In the waters of the flood you destroyed evil. You led the children of Israel through the sea into the freedom of the promised land. In the river Jordan, John baptized our Lord and your Spirit anointed him.

By his death and resurrection, Jesus Christ, the living water, frees us from sin and death and opens the way to life everlasting. We have put on Christ. In him we have been baptized, and we declare, Alleluia! We thank you, O God, for the gift of baptism. In the waters of baptism you confirm to us that we are buried with Christ in his death, raised to share in his resurrection, and being renewed by the Holy Spirit. Pour out upon us and on your whole church the gift of your Holy Spirit, so that all who have passed through the waters of baptism might be dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. To God be all honour and glory, dominion and power, now and forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we are bold to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not

into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Remember your baptism and be thankful. You are disciples of Jesus Christ. Live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us. Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.