

The Baptismal Covenant

Leader Do you believe in God the Father?

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Leader Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Leader Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All **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.**

Leader Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

All **I will, with God's help.**

Leader Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

All **I will, with God's help.**

Leader Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

All **I will, with God's help.**

Leader Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

All **I will, with God's help.**

Leader Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

All **I will, with God's help.**

The Leader prays:

Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin: Grant that we, being reborn to new life in him, may live in righteousness and holiness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** (BCP 254)

or

Grant, Lord God, to all who have been baptized into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, that, as we have put away the old life of sin, so we may be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** (BCP 252)

Session 1:

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

What does this mean?

Why would we do this? Why do we need to do this once we are baptized?

How do we do this? (Where do we do this?)

Bible Study:[Ephesians 4:1-16](#)

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

- what idea or image gets your attention?
- what questions do you want to ask about this?
- how does this help you understand continuing in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers?

Take it home:

One thing you can do this week to practice continuing in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers?

With God's help:

Write a prayer, or a note to help you pray for how God can help you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Closing Prayers:

Prayers of the Baptized

Leader Let us pray.

All Deliver us, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
Lord, hear our prayer.

All Open our hearts to your grace and truth.
Lord, hear our prayer.

All Fill us with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
Lord, hear our prayer.

All Keep us in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
Lord, hear our prayer.

All Teach us to love others in the power of the Spirit.
Lord, hear our prayer.

All Send us into the world in witness to your love.
Lord, hear our prayer.

All Bring us to the fullness of your peace and glory.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

All **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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**