

## 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 4:**

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

**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:** Matthew 25:31-40

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

- what idea or image gets your attention?
- what questions do you want to ask about this?
- how does this help you understand seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

### **Take it home:**

One thing you can do this week to practice seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

### **With God's help:**

Write a prayer, or a note to help you pray for how God can help you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself.

Closing Prayers:

**Prayers of the Baptized**

*Leader* Let us pray.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bring us to the fullness of your peace and glory.  
*All* **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.**