

APPENDIX 3

ORDER FOR REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

This order is for occasions that call for a congregation publicly to reaffirm the baptismal covenant. It takes place during the order for the Lord's Day.

The baptismal font is filled with water before the service.

Scripture Texts

After the sermon the minister stands at the font and reads one or more of the following texts from Scripture.

Listen to God speak to you in these words from Holy Scripture:

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah,
not like the covenant which I made with their fathers
when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt,
my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.
But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, says the LORD:
I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts;
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
And no longer shall each man teach his neighbour
and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,'
for they all shall know me,
from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD;
for I will forgive their iniquity,
and I will remember their sin no more. *Jer.31:31-35*

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God,
the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love
with those who love him and keep his commandments,
to a thousand generations. *Deut.7:9*

Just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many, are one body,
so it is with Christ.
For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—
Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—
and were made to drink of one Spirit.
Now you are the body of Christ
and individually members of it. *1 Cor.12:12-13*

Let us worship God.

Hymn

An appropriate hymn is sung.

Preamble

The congregation remains standing as the minister continues:

Brothers and sisters,
In baptism we die with Christ and are raised to live a new life.
Through baptism we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
and, being born from above, are able to call God our 'Father'
and know Jesus Christ as our elder Brother.
Whoever is baptised is incorporated into the Body of Christ

and freed from the tyranny of sin, the law and the devil.
The effects of baptism extend throughout our lives:
even though we may not be able to remember our baptism,
the promise God made to us through our baptism endures for ever.

Today we will together remember our baptism
and renew our commitment to a life of obedience, holiness,
and faithful service as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Renunciations

I ask you, therefore,
once again to reject sin,
to profess your faith in Jesus Christ,
and to confess the faith of the Church,
the faith in which we were baptized.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
do you turn from all the ways of sin,
renouncing evil and all its power in the world?

I do.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ
and accept him as your Lord and Saviour,
trusting in his grace and love?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
obeying his Word
and showing his love and compassion to people?

I will.

Will you promise to serve him in all your ways
at home, at work and in all you do?

I will.

Will you promise to be a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ?

I will.

Creed

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith.

The congregation says together the Apostle's Creed or another appropriate confession of faith.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Water is visibly and audibly poured into the font. The minister may then place his hands into the water in the font, lift up some water, let it fall splash back into the font, make the sign of the cross over the people, and say:

Remember your baptism and be thankful.
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us now each in our own hearts give thanks to God for our baptism
and renew our commitment to Jesus Christ.... (Silence)

Laying on of Hands

The minister may invite all who wish to receive the laying on of hands to come and kneel or stand at the font.

The minister lays both hands on the head of each person in turn or traces the sign of the cross on the person's forehead with oil prepared beforehand, and says:

Holy Father, uphold *N* by your Holy Spirit.
Daily increase in *him* your gifts of grace:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence,
now and for ever.

Each person answers:

Amen.

Offering and Hymn

When all have returned to their seats, the offering is taken up.

The congregation meanwhile sings the hymn 'O Jesus, I have promised' or some other suitable hymn or song.

The Peace

The peace is exchanged.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

An offertory prayer follows.

The service concludes with the celebration of the Lord's Supper.