

**DISCIPLESHIP AND THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT**

**I WILL, WITH GOD'S HELP**

**EASTER SEASON 2021**

**THE THIRD PROMISE (APRIL 28; MAY 5, 12, 19)**

#### OPENING PRAYER FOR STUDY

As we gather together to learn, to grow and to change we ask;  
Gracious God, help us to move into a deeper understanding of your truth.  
We lay our lives down before you and ask that you would move amongst us.  
May we all feel safe with each other. Safe to think and question, safe to ask for help,  
and safe to share our lives with each other and with you.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

Best Practices for your own study and in a group setting.

- Keep an open heart and mind.
- Remember that there is no one correct interpretation of the sacred text.
- Allow yourself to hear others thoughts, and heartfelt beliefs.
- Welcome questions, ask lots of questions. Listen deeply.
- Read different versions of the sacred text and take note of the differences. Identify whether you are reading a translation or a paraphrase.
- Explore the historical and cultural context of what you are reading.
- Consult a wide theological diversity of commentaries. Traditional and contemporary thoughts.
- Make study a regular part of your faith journey.
- Share only what you feel comfortable sharing.
- Remember that all faith is a living breathing experience and changing our mind or position on a theological premise is not a failure.
- End with Prayer.

#### CLOSING PRAYER FOR STUDY

God of all Creation, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.  
Thank you that we can live in your light and walk in your truth.  
May the things that you have revealed and thoughts that we have shared dwell in our hearts and stir us to action.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, Redeemer, Saviour, Pattern of Life. Amen.

## BAPTISMAL COVENANT

### THE CREED

Question

Do you believe in God?

Answer

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

Question

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

Answer

**I believe in Jesus the Christ, God's only Son, our Saviour and Redeemer. Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of Virgin Mary. Jesus 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 Creator. Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Question

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Answer

**I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

### THE PROMISES

Question

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

Answer

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

Question

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the ways of Jesus the Christ?

Answer

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

Question

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

Answer

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

Question

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

Answer

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

Question

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human person.

Answer

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

Question

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the earth?

Answer

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

Will you *proclaim* by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

**I will with God's help**

#### Questions

- I. Please watch the video attached to this link.  
[Rob Bell - Bullhorn](#)
- II. What does it mean to proclaim?
- III. Name a biblical character (or two, or more) who is all about proclamation.
- IV. What is your answer to - what does it mean to be a Christian?

#### *Personal reflection*

What are you proclaiming with your life?

**I PROCLAIM  
YOU PROCLAIM  
WE PROCLAIM**

Scripture - There are many different translations and paraphrases of the scripture. Reading the same scripture verses from different translations is an excellent way to hear more from the sacred text.  
Bible Gateway - <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15&version=NIV>

Deuteronomy 32:3

Leviticus 25:10

Psalms 105:1

Isaiah 52:7

Mark 1:14-15

Luke 4:31-44

Acts 5:43

Romans 10:4

Will you proclaim by word and example the *good news of God in Christ*?

## I will with God's help

*Yes friends this is out of order - but I think we need to know what the good news is before we can talk about how we use words or examples to live it out.*

### Questions

- I. What is the Good News?
- II. What is the Good News of God in Christ?
- III. What is different about it?
- IV. Who is it for?
- V. What is the Kingdom or Realm of God?
- VI. If the kingdom or realm of God is central - what does that mean for my day to day life?

### *Personal reflection*

Do I really believe God loves me?

Do I really believe God loves those who do not believe or believe as I do, are criminals, are atheists, or do not live Godly lives?



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Isaiah 61:1

Syrophoenician Woman ~ Mark 7:24-30 & Matthew 15:21-28

Saviour's Prayer ~ Matthew 6:1-15 and Luke 11:1-13

Matthew 4:24; 22:34-40

Luke 10:25-37; 23:8

Will you proclaim *by word and example* the good news of God in Christ?

**I will with God's help**

### Questions

- I. Jesus is referred to as the Word - what does this mean?
- II. What are your favourite words from the scripture? Why?
- III. What is your preferred version of the scripture? Why?
- IV. Language - can heal or harm. How does the language we use when we talk about faith, and when we worship matter?
- V. What are we as the Church - saying about God in Christ?

### *Personal reflection*

What are the most healing words anyone has offered me?  
What are the most hurtful words I have spoken?



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Bible Gateway - <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15&version=NIV>

Please read this article and watch the short video - <https://www.thymindoman.com/does-language-construct-reality-or-our-perception-of-reality/>

When God spoke through the prophets, the formula was consistent: "And the word of the Lord came to . . ." or, the prophet himself would say, "Thus says the Lord" - 2 Kings 20:4; 2 Samuel 7:4; Ezekiel 3:16

Hebrews 1:1-3b  
John 1:1 - 18

Will you proclaim *by word and example* the good news of God in Christ?

## I will with God's help

### Questions

- I. What is or are the examples from Christ's life?
- II. Name one thing (other than the crucifixion and resurrection) that Christ exemplified that you feel you could never do?
- III. Where do the Fruit of the Spirit fit into examples of Christ life?
- IV. How do we reconcile the evil done in the name of Christ? How do we redeem examples of faith that have caused harm?
- V. Where does compassion lead us?

### *Personal reflection*

What action or reaction am I struggling with?



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Bible Gateway - <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15&version=NIV>

Fruit of the Spirit - read all of Galatians chapter 5

Charter for Compassion - <https://charterforcompassion.org>  
Please watch this Ted Talk by Karen Armstrong  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/karen\\_armstrong\\_let\\_s\\_revive\\_the\\_golden\\_rule?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/karen_armstrong_let_s_revive_the_golden_rule?language=en)