

# THE COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE & COMMUNION CELEBRATION

## THE WELCOME & PRAYER

THE OCCASION – *The Process of Our Covenant Renewal*

THE PASTOR

### • THE COVENANT RENEWAL SERVICE •

Dearly beloved, the Christian life, to which we are called, is a life in Christ, redeemed from sin by him, and through him consecrated to God. For unto this life we have entered, having been admitted into that new covenant (*new agreement*) of which our Lord Jesus Christ is mediator, and which he sealed with his own blood, that it might stand forever.

On one side the covenant is God's promise that he will fulfill in and through us all that he declared in Jesus Christ, who is the author and perfecter of our faith. And we are sure that his promises still stand, for we have known his goodness and his grace is proved in our lives day by day.

On the other side of the covenant, we stand pledged to live no longer for ourselves, but to him who loved us and gave himself for us and called us to serve him that the purposes of his coming be fulfilled.

From time to time we renew our vows of consecration, especially when we gather at the table of the Lord. On this day we meet for a purpose, as generations of our fathers and mothers have met, that we may joyfully and solemnly renew the covenant, which bound them and binds us to God.

Let us then, remembering the mercies of God and the hope of his calling, examine ourselves by the light of his Spirit, that we may see where we have failed or fallen short in faith and practice and, considering all that this covenant means, may give ourselves anew to God.

## THE WORSHIP HYMN - #1

## “O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING”

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!	4. He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free; His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood availed for me.
2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.	5. He speaks, and listening to His voice, new life the dead receive; the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease; 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.	6. Hear him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ; ye blind, behold your savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.

## THE INVOCATION: *THE PRAYER OF PURIFICATION & PARDON*

Elder: *Let us pray...* Almighty God, who of your great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who turn to you with true repentance and sincere faith; Have mercy upon us. Pardon and deliver us from all of our sins. Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life: through Jesus Christ our Savior. To You all hearts are open, all desires known, and from You no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your Holy Name; through Christ our Lord. And thank you for teaching us to pray as Jesus taught his Disciples to pray...

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
our kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily bread.*

*Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.*

*Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.*

*For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.*

## THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-18 (New International Version)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

### • THE THANKSGIVING LITANY •

**Minister:** Let us give thanks to God for his many kinds of mercies... O God our Father, the fountain of all goodness, who has been gracious to us through all the years of our life: We give you thanks for your loving-kindness which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place.

**People:** We praise your holy name, O Lord!

**Minister:** You have given us life and purpose, and set us in a world which is full of your glory. You have comforted us with family and friends, and ministered to us through the hands and minds of our fellow Christians.

**People:** We praise your holy name, O Lord!

**Minister:** You have set in our hearts a hunger for you, and given us your peace. You have redeemed us and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus. You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit and the witness of your Church.

**People:** We praise your holy name, O Lord!

**Minister:** In darkness you have been our light, in adversity and temptation a rock of strength, in our joys the very spirit of joy, in our labors the all-sufficient reward.

**People:** We praise your holy name, O Lord!

**Minister:** You have remembered us when we have forgotten you, followed us even when we ran from you, met us with forgiveness when we turned our backs to you. For all your long-suffering and the abundance of your grace,

**People:** We praise your holy name, O Lord! AMEN!

### THE CHOIR PRAISE!

LIVE...LOVE...LEARN

• THE CONFESSION •

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Elder: Let us now examine ourselves before God, with humility confessing our sins and watching our hearts, lest by self-deceit we shut ourselves out from his presence.

*Let us pray:* O God our Father, who has set forth the way of life for us in your beloved Son: We confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, our reluctance to follow him. You have spoken and called, and we have not given careful attention to you; your beauty has shone forth, and we have been blinded; You have stretched out your hands to us through our fellow Christians, and we have passed by. We have taken great benefits -- with little thanks; we have been unworthy of your changeless love.

People: **Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Minister: Forgive us, we beg you, for the lack of quality of our worship, the formality and selfishness of our prayers, our unfaithfulness and unbelief, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our false pretenses, and our willful ignorance of your ways.

People: **Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Minister: Forgive us when we have wasted our time or misused our gifts.  
Forgive us when we have excused our own wrongdoing or evaded our responsibilities.  
Forgive us that we have been unwilling to overcome evil with good, that we have drawn back from the cross.

People: **Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Minister: Forgive us that so little of your love has reached others through us, and that we have taken so lightly, wrongs and sufferings that were not our own. Forgive us when we have cherished the things that divide us from others, and when we have made it hard for them to live with us, and when we have been thoughtless.

People: **Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Minister: If we have made no ventures in fellowship, if we have kept in our heart a grievance against another, if we have not sought reconciliation, if we have been eager for the punishment of wrongdoers and slow to seek their redemption,

People: **Have mercy upon us and forgive us, O Lord.**

Pastor: Let each of us in silence make confession to God.

**A TIME FOR CONFESSION & SILENT PRAYER**

*Confess your sins to the LORD and Repent.*

Elder: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to your loving kindness; according to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within us. Amen.

People: **AMEN!**

• THE COVENANT •

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*Then the minister shall say,*

And now, beloved, let us bind ourselves with willing bonds to our covenant with God, and take the yoke of Christ upon us. This taking of his yoke upon us means that we are heartily content that he appoints us our place and work, and that he alone be our reward.

Christ has many services to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honor, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations, and temporal interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is assuredly given us in Christ, who strengthens us.

Therefore let us make the covenant of God our own. Let us engage our heart to the Lord, and resolve in his strength never to go back to our former way of life. Being thus prepared, let us now, in sincere dependence on his grace and trusting in his promises, yield ourselves anew to him.

*The Pastor shall pray,*

O Lord God, holy Father, who hast called us through Christ to be partakers in this gracious covenant: We take upon ourselves, with joy, the yoke of obedience, and engage ourselves, for the love of you, to seek and do your perfect will. We are no longer our own, but yours.

*Then The People Shall Pray,*

I am no longer my own, but yours, O God. Put to me what you would, rank me with whomever you would; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And this agreement which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

**THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

**THE WORSHIP IN GIVING**

*Directions, Offering Prayer, and Benediction*

**• THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER & HOLY COMMUNION •**

**THE GENERAL CONFESSION**

The Chief Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Celebrant and People: **ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of our LORD, Jesus Christ, Creator and Judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed against Your Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us.**

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; Forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Celebrant and People: **AMEN!**

**THE CONSECRATION**

The Chief Celebrant: All glory, power and honor to you, Almighty God, Holy Father, Creator of heaven and earth, who did make us in your own image. And when we fell into sin, you of your tender mercy did give your only begotten Son Jesus Christ, to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption: who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world: And instituted and commanded us to continue this perpetual memorial of his precious death until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This, is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore, with this bread and cup we remember the life our LORD offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Gracious God, you are holy indeed, the fountain of all holiness. Bless and sanctify these gifts with your Holy Spirit and bless us to your service that we may faithfully receive in unity and peace the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ. AMEN.

**THE SOLICITATION**

ALL STANDING

Celebrant: You that truly and earnestly repent of your sins and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking hereafter in his holy ways, draw near with faith to receive the holy sacrament. Make your humble confession to Almighty God...

**THE SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS**

*Depart to Serve!*