

Easter Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Community Response:

**Choose life that you may be
a leaven for the human family.
then shall you live in peace
as justice bears the gift of freedom
throughout all the world.**

I. God the Creator

Reader 1:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

Reader 2:

We believe that all creatures of the earth, the sky, the sea and the universe
come from the loving hand of God,
and that we too share in the process of creation of
and responsibility for all that exists.

Community Acclamation:

**Unless we are born from above,
we cannot see the kingdom of God.**

Reader 3:

Because of our belief in God as Creator, we choose to be a people
who will not consume a disproportionate amount of the goods of this earth;
we choose to be a people who will not jeopardize creation
by sanctioning nuclear power and weapons;
we choose to be a people who will bring nature to fruition and wholesomeness
by the cultivation of our gardens and forests; grateful for our environment,
we will care for the land and see that water and air remain pure.

Community Response:

**Choose life that you may be
a leaven for the human family;
then shall you live in peace,
as justice bears the gift of freedom
throughout all the world.**

This is the promise of our God,
whose spirit breathes within each heart of flesh,
calling all to live with care
for creatures, great and small,
for earth, the waters and the air.

**Choose life that you may be
a leaven for the human family;
then shall you live in peace,
as justice bears the gift of freedom
throughout all the world.**

II. Jesus Christ, Redeemer

Reader 1:

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God,
who for us and for our salvation was born of the Virgin Mary and became man.
For our sake, he lived, died and rose again.

Reader 2:

We believe that Jesus Christ came
for the freedom, the healing and the fulfillment of all human persons,
and that this was shown to us by his ministry to the poor and oppressed,
by the way he lived and died in faithfulness.

Community Acclamation:

**Unless we are born from above,
we cannot see the kingdom of God.**

Reader 3:

Because of our belief in Jesus as redeemer,
we choose to be a people of peace and non-violence,
who oppose, with all our strength, the arms race, nuclear weapons and war.
Because of our belief in Jesus as redeemer,
we choose to be a people who uproot the sources of violence and oppression
within ourselves and within our society.
Because of our belief in Jesus as redeemer
we choose to be a people who oppose economic manipulation and oppressive militarism
with which our country dominates others.
Because of our belief in Jesus as redeemer,
we choose to commit ourselves to change our lives in simplicity and responsibility
so that others may live.

Community Response:

**Choose life that you may be
a leaven for the human family;
then shall you live in peace,
as justice bears the gift of freedom
throughout all the world.**

Children of earth, unite and sing
of beauty and of truth held in your hands;
flowers of hope you are for us,
as love becomes your bread in life,
your life our only hope.

**Choose life that you may be
a leaven for the human family;
then shall you live in peace,
as justice bears the gift of freedom
throughout all the world.**

III. The Holy Spirit

Reader 1:

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.

Reader 2:

We believe that the gift of the Holy Spirit is to unite all people in the bond of love.
God's Spirit calls us to break down the barriers
between all persons, races, creeds, sexes and nations.
Hope and love are now possible because of this gift of God's faithful presence among us.

Community Acclamation:

***Unless we are born from above,
we cannot see the kingdom of God.***

Reader 3:

Because of our belief in God as Spirit,
we choose to be a community who welcomes all to our table.
Because of our belief in God as Spirit,
we choose to respect and appreciate all persons whose religious expression
and understanding differ from ours.
Because of our belief in God as Spirit,
we choose to affirm and encourage the prophetic voices
that recognize both the sin and the need of our times.
Because of our belief in God as Spirit,
we will rejoice in creative and imaginative gifts,
which, in freedom, arise in communities around us.
We believe that the gift of the Spirit challenges us to a new vision of what the world can be,
calling us to go beyond established social, political and religious structures
to create a new world in the Spirit of the Gospel of Jesus.
We commit ourselves to work for the freedom and justice of all peoples.

Community Response:

**Choose life that you may be
a leaven for the human family;
then shall you live in peace,
as justice bears the gift of freedom
throughout all the world.**

Prophets of progress, heed our cry
and listen to your inner spirit's thirst
for more of life that shall not die;
make clear your choice to live for others

while there still is time. **Choose life that you may be
a leaven for the human family;
then shall you live in peace,
as justice bears the gift of freedom
throughout all the world.**

IV. The Church

Reader 1:

We believe in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church

Reader 2:

We believe that the Church is a community of equals,
called to be a living sign of the mission of Jesus and of the unity of the whole human family.
We believe that the radical source of the hope and joy of the community
is the presence of the risen Jesus.

We affirm that the Church is a community of people
who are called to offer compassion and forgiveness freely.

The love that is expressed and nourished within this community
is to be shared with all, especially with those who are poor and in need.

Community Acclamation:

**Unless we are born from above,
we cannot see the kingdom of God.**

Reader 3:

Because of our belief in the Church as community,
we choose to have no superiors or inferiors among us.
We choose to be a community that dances and sings,
in spite of the tendencies of our times to despair and cynicism.

Because of our belief in the Church as community
we affirm the dignity and giftedness of women.

We commit ourselves to a prayer whose language includes women and men equally.

We choose to be a community in which reflective prayer and mutual love in the Spirit of Jesus
become the bond in which our faithfulness is lived out.

Because of our belief in the Church as community,
we choose to reach out beyond our limited horizons to the people of the Third World,
especially to the people of Latin America,
opening ourselves to the possibility of conversion that is offered to us in their simple lives.

Because of our belief in the Church as community,
we commit ourselves to grow in faithfulness to God, to one another
and to the whole human family.

We commit ourselves to living out this vision of the Church,
regardless of what it may cost.

Community Response:

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**Choose life that you may be
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then shall you live in peace,
as justice bears the gift of freedom
throughout all the world.**

**Today the goodness of God cries out
And the waters come to life
With your saving grace.**

O Father of all,
 you gave us your son
 to redeem us
 from the darkness of sin.

Radiant is
 your joy, O God,
 and the splendor of your love
 is alive, alive.

Today you appear, O Christ,
 to the world
 and your light
 has shone upon us, O Lord.