



# The Episcopal Church of the Ascension



THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

The Rt. Rev. Richard Lawson, Bishop of Alabama  
The Rev. Candice B. Frazer, Rector  
The Rev. David Hall, Interim Associate Rector

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## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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## MINISTERS SERVING THIS SUNDAY

**Organist:** Jim Conely  
**Choir Master:** Meg Griffin  
**Lector:** Evans Bailey  
**LEMs:** Harry Simon, Nan Barganier,  
Virginia Humphrey  
**Verger:** Christopher Turner  
**Children's Church:** Britany & Philip Sellers  
**Acolytes:** Team

**AV Crew:** Jason Pate  
**Altar Guild:** Polly Williamson,  
Alice Blake  
**Flower Guild:** Patty McDonald  
**Vestry Greeter:** Mark Bullock  
**Ushers:** Hunter McDonald,  
Michael McNair

Holy Father, great Creator, source of mercy  
Love, and peace, look upon the Mediator,  
Clothe us with his righteousness; heavenly Father,  
Heavenly Father, through the Savior hear and bless.

Holy Jesus, Lord of glory, whom angelic  
hosts proclaim, while we hear thy wondrous story,  
meet and worship in thy Name, dear Redeemer,  
dear Redeemer, in our hearts thy peace proclaim.

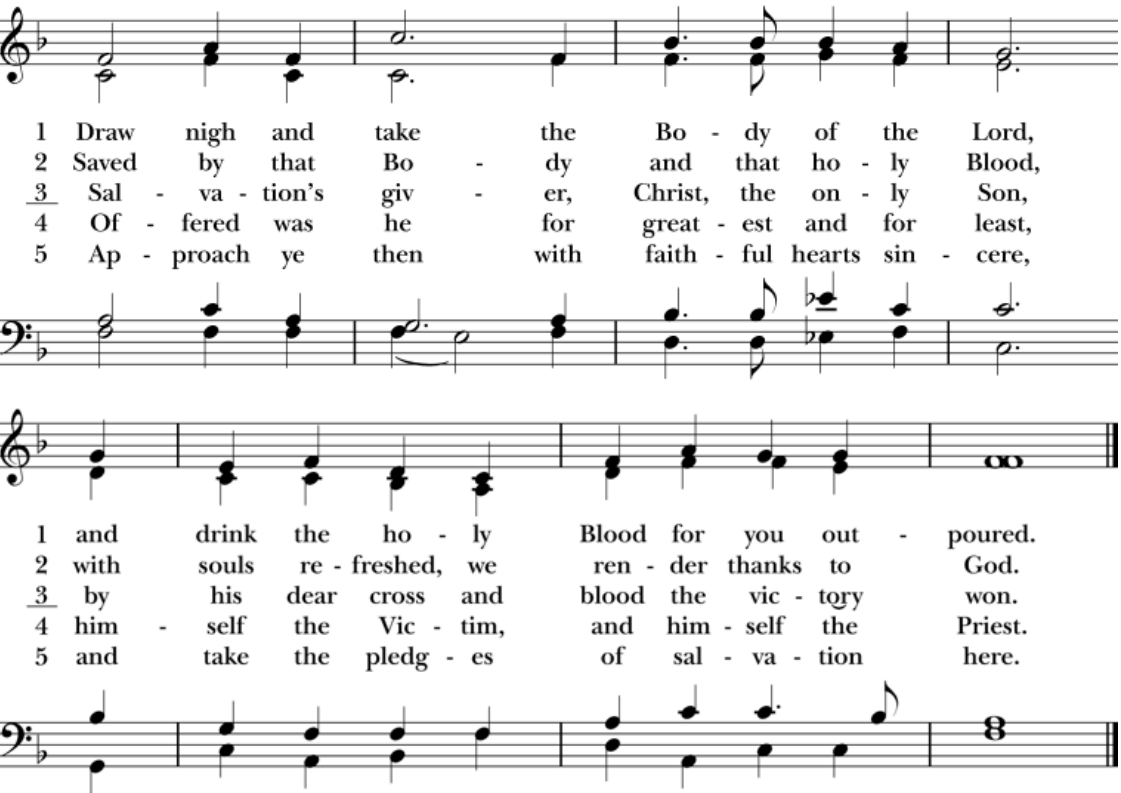
Holy Spirit, Sanctifier, come with unction  
From above, touch our hearts with sacred fire,  
Fill them with the Savior’s love. Source of comfort,  
Source of comfort, cheer us with the Savior’s love.

Go the Lord, through every nation let thy wondrous  
Mercies shine. In the song of thy salvation  
Every tongue and race combine, Great Jehovah,  
Great Jehovah, form our hearts and make them thine.

Dismissal

Priest Let us bless the Lord.  
People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary: “Finale Jubilante” (Healey Willan)



1 Draw nigh and take the Bo - dy of the Lord,  
2 Saved by that Bo - dy and that ho - ly Blood,  
3 Sal - va - tion's giv - er, Christ, the on - ly Son,  
4 Of - fered was he for great - est and for least,  
5 Ap - proach ye then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,

1 and drink the ho - ly Blood for you out - poured.  
2 with souls re - freshed, we ren - der thanks to God.  
3 by his dear cross and blood the vic - tory won.  
4 him - self the Vic - tim, and him - self the Priest.  
5 and take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.

Words: *Bangor Antiphoner*, ca. 690; tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *Song 46*, melody and bass Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

**Lay Eucharistic Commission:**  
*In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.*  
**All: We who are many, are one body because we all share in one bread, one cup**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

**Post Communion Prayer**  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The People join in saying this prayer*  
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Blessing**  
The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen*

Voluntary *Prelude and Fughetta* (Healey Willan)  
Processional Hymn **372** *Praise to the living God!* (Leoni)



1 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his Name  
2 Form - less, all love - ly forms de - clare his love - li - ness;  
3 His Spi - rit flow - eth free, high surg - ing where it will:  
4 E - ter - nal life hath he im - plant - ed in the soul;

who was, and is, and is to be for ay the same.  
ho - ly, no ho - li - ness of earth can his ex - press.  
in pro - phet's word he spoke of old; he speak - eth still.  
his love shall be our strength and stay while a - ges roll.

The one e - ter - nal God ere aught that now ap - pears:  
Lo, he is Lord of all. Cre - a - tion speaks his praise,  
Es - tab - lished is his law, and change - less it shall stand,  
Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his Name

the first, the last, be - yond all thought his time - less years!  
and ev - ery - where a - bove, be - low, his will o - beys.  
deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, on sea, on land.  
who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same.

Words: Medieval Jewish liturgy; tr. Max Landsberg (1845-1928) and Newton M. Mann (1836-1926). Music: *Leoni*, Hebrew melody; harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1985, alt.

HOLY BAPTISM

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant then continues  
There is one Body and one Spirit;  
People There is one hope in God's call to us;  
Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;  
People One God and Father of all.

The Collect of the Day  
Celebrant The Lord be with you.  
People And also with you.  
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen..

THE FIRST READING: GENESIS 45:1-15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.  
People Thanks be to God.

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread  
A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Agnus Dei Hymn S163 Lamb of God (R. Powell)

Musical score for "Lamb of God" (R. Powell). The score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace." The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with some triplet markings.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Celebrant  
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Hymns during Communion 654

Musical score for "Hymns during Communion 654". The score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: "Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: to see thee more clear - ly, love thee more dear - ly, fol - low thee more near - ly, day by day." The music is a simple, hymn-like setting with a clear melody and accompaniment.

Words: Att. Richard of Chichester (1197-1253). Music: *Sumner*, Arthur Henry Biggs (1906-1954). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_\_

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

*The people kneel or stand.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ 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 for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,  
*Celebrant and People:* We remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory.

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Al-mighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*  
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.

PSALM 133

1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*  
when brethren live together in unity!

2 It is like fine oil upon the head \*  
that runs down upon the beard,

3 Upon the beard of Aaron, \*  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

4 It is like the dew of Hermon \*  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.

5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: \*  
life for evermore.

THE EPISTLE: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

*A reading from the Paul’s letter to the Romans.*

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

|               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Reader</i> | The Word of the Lord. |
| <i>People</i> | Thanks be to God.     |

Sequence Hymn 469 *There's a wideness in God's mercy*

(*St. Helena*)

*Introduction*



1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy like the wide - ness  
2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure



of the sea; there's a kind - ness in his jus -  
up in heaven; there is no place where earth's fail -  
of the mind; and the heart of the E - ter -



tice, which is more than lib - er - ty. There is wel - come  
ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given. There is plen - ti -  
nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were



for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good; there is mer - cy  
ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed; there is joy for  
but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word; and our life would

*Interlude/Conclusion*



with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.  
be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.



Words: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863), alt. Music: *St. Helena*, Calvin Hampton (1938-1984). Copyright © 1977, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

**The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* And also with you.

**Announcements**

*Giving is available on-line by going to our website and click on the “Give” link, or text the word “GIVE” to (833)901-2138 and follow as prompted. Or on Venmo: @ChurchoftheAscension-Montgomery,Alabama*

Offertory Anthem *Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me* (arr. K. Lee Scott)

The Presentation

**Offertory Sentence**

*Celebrant* All things come of thee, O Lord.  
*People* And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

**The Holy Communion**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Eucharistic Prayer B**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* We lift them to the Lord.  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.  
*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

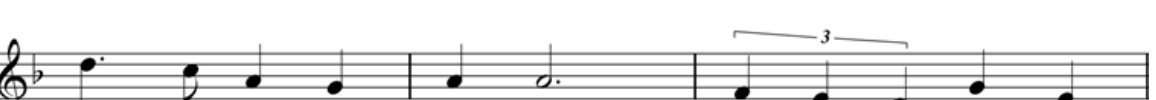
**Sanctus Hymn S129** (R. Powell)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and



might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

People The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water  
Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Baptism

Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses, or pours water upon, the candidate, saying

Ward, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

When this action has been completed for the candidate, the Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over the candidates, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

Then the Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross [using Chrism if desired] and saying to each one

Ward, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. Amen.

When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 15: (10-20), 21-28

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.  
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon: The Rev. Candice B. Frazer

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Infants and Younger Children  
Then the candidates who are unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows

Parents and Godparents  
I present Willam Edward (Ward) Speaks to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

When the candidate has been presented the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents  
I will, with God's help.

Celebrant  
Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents  
I will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?  
Answer I renounce them.

|                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Question</i>                                                                                                             | Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <i>Answer</i>                                                                                                               | I renounce them.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Question</i>                                                                                                             | Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <i>Answer</i>                                                                                                               | I renounce them.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <i>Question</i>                                                                                                             | Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <i>Answer</i>                                                                                                               | I do.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <i>Question</i>                                                                                                             | Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <i>Answer</i>                                                                                                               | I do.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <i>Question</i>                                                                                                             | Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <i>Answer</i>                                                                                                               | I do.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <i>After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying</i>                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support <i>this person</i> in <i>his</i> life in Christ?            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <i>People</i>                                                                                                               | We will.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <i>The Celebrant then says these or similar words</i>                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Let us join with <i>this</i> person who <i>is</i> committing <i>himself</i> to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <i>Celebrant</i>                                                                                                            | Do you believe in God the Father?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <i>People</i>                                                                                                               | I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <i>Celebrant</i>                                                                                                            | Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <i>People</i>                                                                                                               | I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.<br>He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.<br>He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.<br>He descended to the dead.<br>On the third day he rose again.<br>He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.<br>He will come again to judge the living and the dead. |
| <i>Celebrant</i>                                                                                                            | Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <i>People</i>                                                                                                               | 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <i>Celebrant</i>                                                                                                            | Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <i>People</i>                                                                                                               | I will, with God's help.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <i>Celebrant</i>                                                                                                            | Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <i>People</i>                                                                                                               | I will, with God's help.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <i>Celebrant</i>                                                                                                            | Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <i>People</i>                                                                                                               | I will, with God's help.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

|                  |                                                                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Celebrant</i> | Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? |
| <i>People</i>    | I will, with God's help.                                                         |

**PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE**

*The Celebrant then says to the congregation*  
Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the sacrament of new birth.

|               |                                                             |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Leader</i> | Deliver <i>him</i> , O Lord, from the way of sin and death. |
| <i>People</i> | Lord, hear our prayer.                                      |

|               |                                                |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Leader</i> | Open <i>his</i> heart to your grace and truth. |
| <i>People</i> | Lord, hear our prayer.                         |

|               |                                                        |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Leader</i> | Fill <i>him</i> with your holy and life-giving Spirit. |
| <i>People</i> | Lord, hear our prayer.                                 |

|               |                                                                 |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Leader</i> | Keep <i>him</i> in the faith and communion of your holy Church. |
| <i>People</i> | Lord, hear our prayer.                                          |

|               |                                                             |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Leader</i> | Teach <i>him</i> to love others in the power of the Spirit. |
| <i>People</i> | Lord, hear our prayer.                                      |

|               |                                                         |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Leader</i> | Send <i>him</i> into the world in witness to your love. |
| <i>People</i> | Lord, hear our prayer.                                  |

|               |                                                           |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Leader</i> | Bring <i>him</i> to the fullness of your peace and glory. |
| <i>People</i> | Lord, hear our prayer.                                    |

*The Celebrant says*

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.*

**Hymn 296** *We know that Christ is raised and dies no more (Engelburg)*

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more  
embraced by death he broke its fearful hold;  
and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!

We share by water in his saving death.  
Reborn we share with him an Easter life  
as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!

The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.  
The Spirit's power shakes the Church of God.  
Baptized we live with God, the Three in One. Alleluia!

A new creation comes to life and grows  
as Christ's new body take on flesh and blood.  
The universe restored and whole will sing: Alleluia! Amen.