



## A BRIEF GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR GENERAL USE

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*This text may be used by the pastor either in a congregational service or with sick or homebound persons as an alternative to the text on 52–53. Since it does not involve the verbal participation of the people, its use should be limited to situations where the people may be unable to participate easily.*

Lift up your hearts and give thanks to God.

Blessed are you, O God, who with your Word and Holy Spirit  
created all things and called them good.

In Jesus Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Through Jesus' suffering and death  
you took upon yourself our sin and death  
and destroyed their power for ever.

You raised from the dead this same Jesus, who now reigns with you in glory,  
and poured upon us your Holy Spirit,  
making us the people of your new covenant.

On the night before meeting with death  
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to the disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over Jesus took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts,  
that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this wine  
we may know the presence of the living Christ  
and be renewed as the body of Christ for the world,  
redeemed by Christ's blood,  
until Christ comes in final victory  
and we feast at your table for ever.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

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# New Service of Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

*This service reframes the structure and vows of the current Baptismal Covenant (UMH 50 and 2004 Book of Discipline, para. 217) in fresh imagery and a more interactive style. Text in regular print may be offered by the pastor. Text in bold print may be said by all. Please note that this liturgy is for use for reaffirming the baptismal covenant, but not for receiving new members.*

## Introduction

*All standing in body and/or spirit.*

Sisters and brothers in Christ:  
 through the sacrament of baptism  
 God's Spirit has been poured out upon water,  
 water poured over and immersing us,  
 water that flows freely for all who will receive it,  
 water from the streams of God's saving power and justice,  
 water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness,  
 water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

Today we come to the waters,  
 to renew our commitments  
 in each other's presence  
 to Christ who has raised us,  
 the Spirit who has birthed us,  
 and the Creator who is making all things new.

## Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

And so I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

**We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,  
 Reject the evil powers of this world,  
 And repent of our sin!**

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

**We accept the freedom and power God gives us  
To resist evil, injustice, and oppression  
In whatever forms they present themselves!**

Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?

**We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior,  
put our whole trust in his grace,  
and promise to serve him as our Lord,  
in union with the church which Christ has opened  
to people of all ages, nations, and races!**

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

**We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church  
And serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

**We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church  
as we put our trust  
in God, the Father Almighty.  
in Jesus Christ, his only Son.  
and in the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and forever.**

**Thanksgiving Over the Water**  
The Spirit of the Lord is with us.  
Even so, come Lord Jesus!  
Let us pray.

*Over water*

Almighty God, the life you birthed in us  
by baptism into Jesus Christ  
will never die.  
Your justice never fails.  
Your mercy is everlasting.

**Your healing river flows.  
Your Spirit blows where you will.  
We cannot stop you, God!**

But sometimes we try.  
We try to block the flow,  
we redirect the winds of the Spirit,  
or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream  
that we do not hear its sound,  
and we forget its power.  
We parch ourselves.

**We are dry and thirsty, O God.  
Come, refresh us!**

*The pastor offers gestures of calling upon the Holy Spirit to come upon the people and the water.*

*The people are invited to offer the same gestures as they respond.*

**Come upon us, Holy Spirit!  
Come upon us, Holy Spirit!**

**Come upon these waters.  
Come upon these waters.**

**Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.  
Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.  
Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.  
Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.**

**Most Holy God, Abba, Father!  
Glory to you!**

**Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!  
Glory to you!**

**Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!  
Glory to you!**

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!  
All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

*All who are baptized and have renewed their vows are invited to come to the font to use the water as a sign of refreshing. As each uses the water, another says to her or him:*  
Remember that you are baptized, and rejoice!

**Servicio para la Reafirmación del Pacto Bautismal**-- Traducción por Julio Vargas-Vidal

Baptism Service

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