



Easter brings us to a major threshold of our faith—we have journeyed with Jesus through Advent, Epiphany, and Lent. We have walked with him through Holy Week and past the empty tomb to Easter joy. Now, we focus on the renewal of our baptismal vows in light of the rekindling of our Easter hope.

Bishop Theodore A. Eastman (retired Bishop of Maryland) once used the phrase “walking wet” in a sermon challenging delegates at the annual convocation of the Diocese of Iowa to live into the promises made in the baptismal covenant. The baptismal promises we will renew at Easter provide a frame of reference for ordering the entire Christian experience. So, if I “walk wet,” I shall indeed be living the life of faith, service, worship, and witness that we all are ordained to live in baptism. Baptism actually is a sacrament of lay ordination, in which we receive a call upon our lives, a vocation articulated in the baptismal promises.

After we affirm our faith in and commitment to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we specify in the promises just how a person of faith expresses that faith in life (BCP, pp. 304-305).

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

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will with God's help.

God grant us grace to “walk wet” into this Easter season showing the way for those newly baptized and for those on the verge of faith. As we participate in the baptism of others and renew our own baptismal promises, may God’s Spirit renew our desire to “walk wet.”

Peace and joy,

*David*

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