

# RENEWING OUR BAPTISM

## 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 // Evening Prayer

*In this evening service we explore God's work in our heart by engaging a baptismal renewal service. Here are some materials to get you started creating your own worship service.*

**MAIN THEME:** *God's Work in Our Heart*

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## CHOOSING MUSIC // FOR SINGING

- ✿ **Kyrie Eleison, Have Mercy** [Key of B]  
Words and Music: Keith Getty and Kristen Getty  
© 2011 Thankyou Music
  
- ✿ **What the Lord Has Done in Me** [Key of C]  
Words and Music: Hillsong  
© 1998 Hillsong Music
  
- ✿ **Baptized in Water** [Key of C]  
Words: Michael Seward, © 1982 The Jubilate Group  
Music: Gaelic; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

## CREATING DRAMA // FOR HEARING

You might use the following guided prayer as a way for worshipers to renew their baptismal covenant. It's taken from *The Jesus Storybook Bible*.

**Leader 1:** *One day, John was baptizing people in the Jordan River as usual when he looked up and saw a man walking down to the water's edge. God spoke quietly to John, "This is the one!" John's heart leapt. This was the moment he'd been waiting for all his life. "Look," John said, as Jesus came down into the water. But his voice came out as a whisper. He couldn't make it any louder. It was all he could do to even speak. "The Lamb of God ... God's best lamb ... who takes away the sins of the whole world." "Will you baptize me, too?" Jesus asked. "Who am I," John asked, "to baptize you?" "It's what God wants me to do," Jesus said. So John Baptized Jesus.*

**Leader 2:** *Suddenly, it was as if someone had drawn back curtains in a dark room, as if heaven itself had opened, because a beautiful light broke through the clouds and shone down on to Jesus, bathing him in gold. Beads of water glittered and sparkled like tiny diamonds in his hair.*

**Leader 1:** *A white dove flew down and rested on Jesus. And a voice came down from heaven. It was clear and strong and loud so everyone could hear. "This is my own Son. And I love him. I am very pleased with him," God said. "Listen to him." Heaven had broken through. The Great Rescue had begun.*

**Leader 2:** *In baptism God claims us, and seals us to show that we belong to God. God frees us and unites us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection. By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.*

## FINDING ART // FOR SEEING

Have a time in your service for worshippers to express through art the value of their redemption. This may be expressed through a particular scene or symbol they value. Invite them to create something they can use to remind them daily of their redemption.

## LIVING WORSHIP // FOR DOING

Ask worshippers how they can live out their baptismal vocation in everyday living. Consider asking them to write this in one or two words on a stone that you use in a baptismal renewal prayer experience.

## MAKING SPACE // FOR WORSHIPPING

Because this service focuses on our sin, forgiveness, and redemption you might place objects associated with communion and baptism around the room – physical representations of God’s work within us.

## WRITING POETRY// FOR PRAYING

Below is a text that might be used during a time of confession by W. H. Auden, an Anglo-American poet of the 20th century. You could also have your worshippers write their own prayer of confession.

*“O God, put away justice and truth for we cannot understand them and do not want them. Eternity would bore us dreadfully. Leave thy heavens and come down to our earth of water clocks and hedges. Become our Uncle. Look after Baby, amuse Grandfather, escort Madam to the Opera, help Willy with his homework, introduce Muriel to a handsome naval officer. Be interesting and weak like us, and we will love you as we love ourselves.”*

*from “A Satirical Prayer” by W.H. Auden*

# SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

*Evening Prayer // 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 10:25-37 // Renewing Our Baptism*

## GATHERING AND WELCOME

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**One:** The Spirit and the church cry  
out:

**ALL:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**One:** Those who await his appearance  
pray:

**ALL:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**One:** The whole creation pleads:

**ALL:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

from ELCW Book of Worship, 309

## SONGS OF PRAISE

*Jesus, Light of Joy*

*Words: David Gambell, Music: John Goss*

© 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.)

*Hear Our Praises*

*Words and Music: Reuben Morgan*

© 1998 Hillsong Publishing

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIGHT

**One:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

**One:** Let us give thanks to the Lord,  
our God.

**All:** **Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. Grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love. Renew us, and make us ready to live the gospel and eager to do your will, so that we may share with all your church in the joys of life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## SONG OF CONFESSION

*Kyrie eleison, Have Mercy*

*Words and Music: Keith and Kristen Getty*

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## SILENT CONFESSION

“O God, put away justice and truth for we cannot understand them and do not want them. Eternity would bore us dreadfully. Leave thy heavens and come down to our earth of water clocks and hedges. Become our Uncle. Look after Baby, amuse Grandfather, escort Madam to the Opera, help Willy with his homework, introduce Muriel to a handsome naval officer. Be interesting and weak like us, and we will love you as we love ourselves.”

*from “A Satirical Prayer” by W.H. Auden*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

## SONG OF ILLUMINATION

*Speak to Me*

*Words and Music: Tommy Walker*

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## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 10:25-37

*[sung refrain of Speak to Me]*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**One:** Creator, your Word brought this world into being. You declared it good and called us to live as its stewards. We open our ears this day to your voice, that we might hear afresh your call to cherish our world.

**All:** **Speak Lord, your servants are listening.**

**One:** God of Moses and Isaiah and Jeremiah, your Word came to your servants, that your people might bear witness to all the world. We open our eyes this day to your vision for justice, mercy, and peace.

**All:** **Speak Lord, your servants are listening.**

**One:** Compassionate One, your Word took flesh and came near to us in Jesus, proclaiming the good news of your Kingdom. We open our hearts this day to your grace, confessing our need for your forgiveness.

**All:** **Speak Lord, your servants are listening.**

### CLOSING PRAYER

**One:** O loving God, to turn away from you is to fall, to turn toward you is to rise, and to stand before you is to abide forever. Grant us, dear God, in all our duties your help; in all our uncertainties your guidance; in all our dangers your protection; and in all our sorrows your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** **Amen.**

**One:** Indwelling Spirit, your Word, mysterious and infinite, was delivered and entrusted to the Church, a baptized, reconciling community. We open our hands this day to your mission and ask that you use all we offer.

**All:** **Speak Lord, your servants are listening.**

*[sung refrain of Speak to Me]*

Words: John Woods; used with permission

### GUIDED PRAYER

**Leader 1:** When you entered worship today, you received a stone. Take that stone out now. Run your fingers over it. As you hear this story and run your fingers over the stone, and remember your own baptism.

**Leader 2:** One day, John was baptizing people in the Jordan River as usual when he looked up and saw a man walking down to the water's edge. God spoke quietly to John, "Tis is the one!" John's heart leapt. Tis was the moment he'd been waiting for all his life. "Look," John said, as Jesus came down into the water. But his voice came out as a whisper. He couldn't make it any louder. It was all he could do to even speak. "The Lamb of God ... God's best lamb ... who takes away the sins of the whole world." "Will you baptize me, too?" Jesus asked. "Who am I," John asked, "to baptize you?" "It's what God wants me to do," Jesus said. So John Baptized Jesus.

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**Leader 1:** In baptism God claims us, and seals us to show that we belong to God. God frees us and unites us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection. By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.

### MEDITATION

Minister

## CLOSING PRAYER

Gracious God, by water and the Spirit you claimed us as your own, cleansing us from sin, and giving us new life. You made us members of your body, the church, calling us to be your servants in the world. Renew in each person the covenant you made in their baptism. Continue the good work you have begun in them. Send them forth by the power of your Spirit to love and serve you with job, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source: ELCW Book of Worship

## SONG OF RENEWAL

*What the Lord Has Done in Me*

*Words and Music: Hillsong*

©1998 Hillsong Music

## BENEDICTION

**All:**            **Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.**

**One:**            Go in peace to love and serve.

*Source: The Book of Common Prayers*