

**DISCIPLESHIP AND THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT**

**I WILL, WITH GOD'S HELP**

**LENTEN STUDY 2021**

**THE SECOND PROMISE**



### A Fast for the Earth

Fasting is one of the cornerstones of Lenten practice and discipline. The topics of Creation Care are designed to engage and entice us into a deeper relationship with this planet which sustains our very lives.

The weekly focus are:

Week 1	Feb 17 - 20	Meat Fast
Week 2	Feb 21 - 27	Consumption Fast
Week 3	Feb 28 - Mar 6	Food Waste Fast
Week 4	Mar 7 - 13	Water Fast
Week 5	Mar 14 - 21	Injustice Fast
Week 6	Mar 21 - 27	Electricity Fast
Week 7	Mar 28 - Apr 3	Ignorance Fast

These themes will be evident in our prayers and worship. The diocesan Creation Care Resource, and other resources related to Creation are available on our website. Printed copies are available, just leave a message on the church voicemail or send an email and we will make sure you get a copy. At 1pm on Sunday a ZOOM conversation is available for those who want to chat about their experience in this Creation Care Fast.

ZOOM - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82843726653?pwd=aGRuMzdnQThmRVl1ak82SlZ6ZDh3QT09>

Meeting ID: 828 4372 6653  
Passcode: 978045

### Bible Study ~ The Baptismal Covenant: The 2nd Promise

Throughout the 2021 calendar year our educational focus is on the Baptismal Promises, what they are and how we live them out in our lives? Throughout Lent we will explore the second baptismal promise:

*Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the ways of Jesus the Christ?*

Wednesday evenings beginning March 3 - until Mar 31 (5 sessions)  
7:30 - 8:30 pm

ZOOM - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89884083869?pwd=YVdPYlZoampMbXA5RXEzZWdDdhUT09>

Meeting ID: 898 8408 3869  
Passcode: Lent

#### OPENING PRAYER FOR STUDY

As we gather together to learn, to grow and to change we ask;  
Gracious God, help us to move into a deeper understanding of your truth.  
We lay our lives down before you and ask that you would move amongst us.  
May we all feel safe with each other. Safe to think and question, safe to ask for help,  
and safe to share our lives with each other and with you.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

Best Practices for your own study and in a group setting.

- Keep an open heart and mind.
- Remember that there is no one correct interpretation of the sacred text.
- Allow yourself to hear others thoughts, and heartfelt beliefs.
- Welcome questions, ask lots of questions. Listen deeply.
- Read different versions of the sacred text and take note of the differences. Identify whether you are reading a translation or a paraphrase.
- Explore the historical and cultural context of what you are reading.
- Consult a wide theological diversity of commentaries. Traditional and contemporary thoughts.
- Make study a regular part of your faith journey.
- Share only what you feel comfortable sharing.
- Remember that all faith is a living breathing experience and changing our mind or position on a theological premise is not a failure.
- End with Prayer.

#### CLOSING PRAYER FOR STUDY

God of all Creation, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.  
Thank you that we can live in your light and walk in your truth.  
May the things that you have revealed and thoughts that we have shared dwell in our hearts and stir us to action.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, Redeemer, Saviour, Pattern of Life. Amen.

## BAPTISMAL COVENANT

### THE CREED

Question

Do you believe in God?

Answer

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Question

Do you believe in Jesus the Christ, the Son of God?

Answer

**I believe in Jesus the Christ, God's only Son, our Saviour and Redeemer. Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of Virgin Mary. Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Creator. Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Question

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Answer

**I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

### THE PROMISES

Question

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

Answer

**I will with God's help.**

Question

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the ways of Jesus the Christ?

Answer

**I will with God's help.**

Question

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

Answer

**I will with God's help.**

Question

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

Answer

**I will with God's help.**

Question

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human person.

Answer

**I will with God's help.**

Question

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the earth?

Answer

**I will with God's help.**

# 01 | THE SECOND PROMISE: PERSEVERE

Will you *persevere* in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the ways of Jesus the Christ?  
**I will with God's help**

## Questions

- I. What is perseverance?
- II. When in your life have you had a season of perseverance?
- III. Have you ever persevered or put up with something or someone to keep the peace?
- IV. Name a biblical character whose story is about perseverance?
- V. What does the scripture mean by persevere, and is it different from our concept?
- VI. What are some of the spiritual practices you use to persevere in your faith journey?



Scripture - There are many different translations and paraphrases of the scripture. Reading the same scripture verses from different translations is an excellent way to hear more from the sacred text.  
Bible Gateway - <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15&version=NIV>

The story of Job

Matthew 10:22  
Mark 13:13  
Luke 8:15  
John 6:37; 8:31; 10:28  
Romans 5:2-4  
Hebrews 12:1-15  
Galatians 5:22,23; 6:9  
2 Peter 1:5-7  
Revelations 2:2-3; 2:19;

# 01 THE SECOND PROMISE: RESISTING EVIL IN OUR PERSON

Will you persevere in *resisting evil* and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the ways of Jesus the Christ?

## I will with God's help

### Questions

- I. What is evil and are their different kinds?
- II. What or who is Satan, the Devil, the Evil One?
- III. Who is responsible for evil?
- IV. What does it mean to resist evil?
- V. How do we resist evil?

### Questions for personal reflection

Have I ever committed and evil act, thought an evil thought?

Has my silence allowed evil to flourish? How?  
Why was I silent?

### What is Evil?

Evil: an act or person that is corrupt or wicked

Suffering: having to undergo unpleasant or traumatic experiences

Natural Evil

Moral Evil

Sin

Original Sin

The Fall

Freewill

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Deuteronomy 21:18-21

Leviticus 20:23

Psalms 34:16

Proverbs 6:16-19

Matthew 4:1-11

Luke 12:1

Romans 6:23; 13:1-4

# 01 | THE SECOND PROMISE: RESISTING STRUCTURAL EVIL

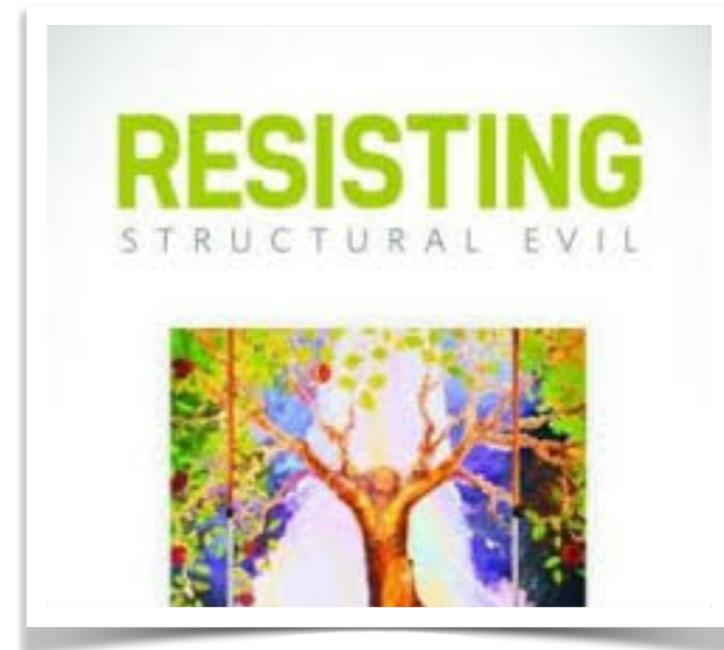
Will you persevere in *resisting evil* and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the ways of Jesus the Christ?

## I will with God's help

### Questions

- I. What is structural evil? Give an example?
- II. How does it develop and flourish?
- III. Can you give an example of structural evil from the scriptures?
- IV. How can we resist it? Have we been conditioned and/or taught by the structural evil in our society?

What questions do you have about structural evil?



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Proverbs 17:13

Isaiah 10:1-4

The Story of Joseph

Matthew 15:21-28

Mark 7:24-30

1 Peter 3:9

# 01 | THE SECOND PROMISE: WHENEVER YOU FALL INTO SIN

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, *whenever you fall into sin*, repent and return to the ways of Jesus the Christ?

**I will with God's help**

## Questions

- I. What is sin?
- II. What does it mean to fall into sin?
- III. Do we fall into sin - or do we chose it?
- IV. Can we be unaware that we are sinning?

What questions do you have about sin that you have never asked?

## Personal reflection

What sin still haunts me?

What sin do I seem to repeat?



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Bible Gateway - <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15&version=NIV>

Genesis 3:1-24

Matthew 7:5

Matthew 22:13-39

Matthew 20:25 - 28; Mark 10:45

Mark 12:41-44

Luke 16:19-31

John 13:34-35

Romans 2:1

# 01 | THE SECOND PROMISE: REPENT AND RETURN

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, **repent and return** to the ways of Jesus the Christ?

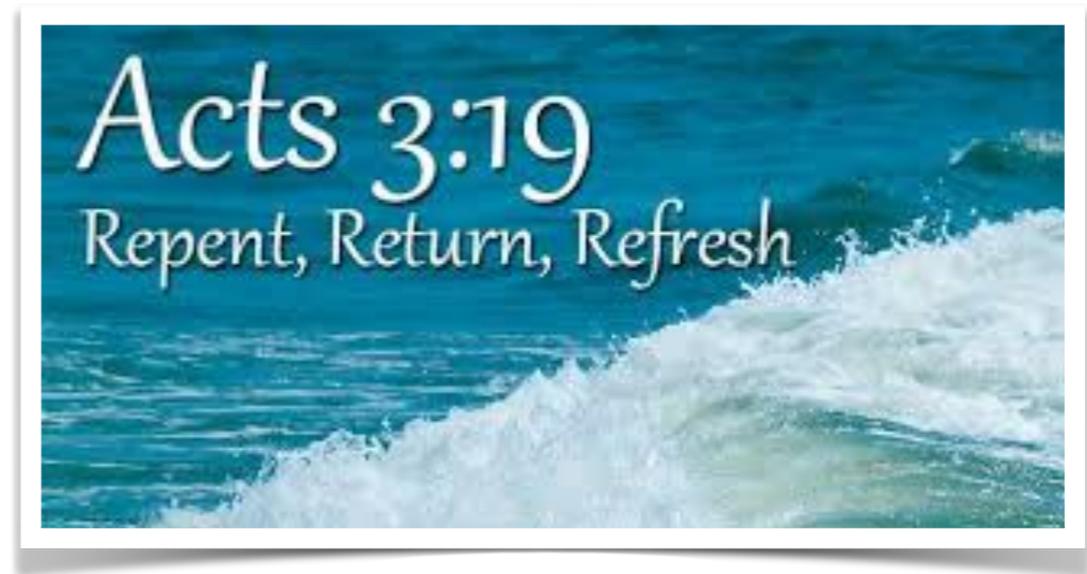
**I will with God's help**

## Questions

- I. What does it mean to repent?
- II. What are the 'ways of Christ'?
- III. What does it mean to return to the ways of Christ?
- IV. What role does forgiveness play in repent and return?
- V. Can I return without changing my ways or attitudes?

## Personal reflection question

Is there anything I have not repented and is it keeping me from a fuller and deeper relationship with the Divine?



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Ezekiel 18:32

Isaiah 30:15; 44:22

Joel 2:1,2 - 12-17

The story of Jonah

Matthew 3:1-17; 4:17; 6:1-6, 16-21

Mark 1:5

Luke 13:5

Acts 2:38; 3:19