

Week 5 August 10, 2026 - Baptism: *The Pledge of a Pure Conscience*

Gathering Song [*Sanctuary*](#) by Sam and Easter

Daily Prayer *Jesus, Jesus you are with me as I step into this day.*

Let me hear you gently calling, "Precious child, walk this way."

Jesus, Jesus when I hear you, calling me to follow you,

In that hour, give me grace to love my neighbor like you do. Amen.

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:21 Context: 8-22 The Pledge of a Pure Conscience

...and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,...

Devotional Thoughts What does it mean to take a vow or a pledge? Why are the words of a vow or a pledge so important? Perhaps it is because there is a commitment being made that is meant to show how much we value something and love something. And it is a statement of trust.

1 Peter tells us that the water of baptism is so much more than just water that we use to wash the dirt from our face or use to clean the dishes or the laundry. The water of baptism is MADE HOLY by the resurrection of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. Being baptized isn't just a "one and done" box to be checked. The promises made by parents and by sponsors and by the entire congregation during baptism aren't just words. We are making a commitment to the future work of the church. The water and the words of baptism are "the pledge of a clear conscience toward God." Wow!

Perhaps we could take a moment to wrap our hearts and minds around what this means. As we go to school or go to work or hang out with our friends and have dinner with our family each week? As we shop for groceries and buy stuff for our home or for the work we will do, how can we "pledge to have a clear conscience" as we live out the promises of our baptism?

This Week's Challenge? Choose just one of the Baptismal Promises and spend time this week dwelling in the power of that promise. Think creatively about how you might live out that promise in the world. Be courageous as you work to embrace what it means to keep that promise of baptism. Remember the words of the song, "Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true."

Ask yourself, What is the value of a "*pledge of a clear conscience toward God?*" The promises of Baptism wash the weight of our sin clean and leave us with a clear conscience, not just once, but as many times as is needed as we live out our promises each week.

Affirmation of Christian Vocation: Make the sign of the cross on your forehead (or if you are doing this devotion with others, make the sign on the forehead of another) while saying...

All that we do belongs to God—our work and our rest.

We follow Jesus with thankful hearts and open hands, serving our neighbor in love.

Morning and evening, at work and at play, our life is in Christ Jesus our Lord. AMEN