

# Peace, Justice, and Dignity

*Saint Michael and All Angels  
February 2026*

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## **Baptismal Covenant**

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



2

## Baptismal Covenant

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



3

## Baptismal Covenant

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



4

## Baptismal Covenant

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



5

## Baptismal Covenant

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



6

## Baptismal Covenant

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



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## Baptismal Identity

- Scripture anchors:
- Matthew 28:19–20 — Baptize and teach all nations

*Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*



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## Baptismal Identity

- Scripture anchors:
- Romans 6:3–5 — Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection

*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*



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## Baptismal Identity

- Scripture anchors:
- Galatians 3:27–28 — All clothed in Christ; divisions transformed

*As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*



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## Baptismal Identity

- Scripture anchors:
- Matthew 28:19–20 — Baptize and teach all nations
- Romans 6:3–5 — Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection
- Galatians 3:27–28 — All clothed in Christ; divisions transformed
- **Baptism creates a new identity that leads toward justice, peace, and dignity.**



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## Why This Language Matters

- Scripture anchors:
- Micah 6:8 — Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God
  - *He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*
- John 1:14 — The Word became flesh and dwelt among us
- Proverbs 18:21 — Words shape life and community
- Christian language is covenantal.



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## Why This Language Matters

- Scripture anchors:
- Micah 6:8 — Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God
- John 1:14 — The Word became flesh and dwelt among us
  - *And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*
- Proverbs 18:21 — Words shape life and community
- Christian language is revealed.



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## Why This Language Matters

- Scripture anchors:
- Micah 6:8 — Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God
- John 1:14 — The Word became flesh and dwelt among us
- Proverbs 18:21 — Words shape life and community
  - *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.*
- Christian language is formative.



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- Micah 6:8 — Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God
- John 1:14 — The Word became flesh and dwelt among us
- Proverbs 18:21 — Words shape life and community
- **Christian language is covenantal, revealed, and formative.**



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## Human Flourishing

- Scripture anchors:
- Genesis 1:26–27 — Humanity made in the image of God
  - *God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*
- John 10:10 — Christ brings abundant life
- Colossians 1:15–20 — Christ reconciling all creation



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## Human Flourishing

- Scripture anchors:
- Genesis 1:26–27 — Humanity made in the image of God
- John 10:10 — Christ brings abundant life
  - *Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*
- Colossians 1:15–20 — Christ reconciling all creation



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## Human Flourishing

- Scripture anchors:
- Genesis 1:26–27 — Humanity made in the image of God
- John 10:10 — Christ brings abundant life
- Colossians 1:15–20 — Christ reconciling all creation
  - *Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.*



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- **Flourishing means restored relationship with God, neighbor, and creation.**



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## History and Brokenness

- Scripture anchors:
- Romans 3:22–24 — All have sinned and fall short
  - *...the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*
- Ephesians 2:14–16 — Christ breaks dividing walls
- Revelation 7:9 — People of every nation united before God



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## History and Brokenness

- Scripture anchors:
- Romans 3:23 — All have sinned and fall short
- Ephesians 2:14–16 — Christ breaks dividing walls
  - *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.*
- Revelation 7:9 — People of every nation united before God



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## History and Brokenness

- Scripture anchors:
- Romans 3:23 — All have sinned and fall short
- Ephesians 2:14–16 — Christ breaks dividing walls
- Revelation 7:9 — People of every nation united before God
  - *I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.*



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## History and Brokenness

- Scripture anchors:
- Romans 3:23 — All have sinned and fall short
- Ephesians 2:14–16 — Christ breaks dividing walls
- Revelation 7:9 — People of every nation united before God
- **Christian realism acknowledges sin but trusts God's reconciling future.**



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## Church and Society

- Scripture anchors:
- John 18:36 — Christ's kingdom not from this world
  - *Jesus said, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."*
- Jeremiah 29:7 — Seek the welfare of the city
- Acts 5:29 — We obey God rather than human authority



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## Church and Society

- Scripture anchors:
- John 18:36 — Christ's kingdom not from this world
- Jeremiah 29:7 — Seek the welfare of the city
  - *Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*
- Acts 5:29 — We obey God rather than human authority



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## Church and Society

- Scripture anchors:
- John 18:36 — Christ's kingdom not from this world
- Jeremiah 29:7 — Seek the welfare of the city
- Acts 5:29 — We obey God rather than human authority
  - *Peter said, "We must obey God rather than any human authority."*



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## Church and Society

- Scripture anchors:
- John 18:36 — Christ's kingdom not from this world
- Jeremiah 29:7 — Seek the welfare of the city
- Acts 5:29 — We obey God rather than human authority
- **The Church lives within society but answers ultimately to God.**



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## Faith in Public Life

- Scripture anchors:
- Matthew 5:13–16 — Christians are salt and light
  - *“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”*
- 1 Peter 2:12–17 — Live honorably among the nations
- Philippians 3:20 — Our citizenship is in heaven



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## Faith in Public Life

- Scripture anchors:
- Matthew 5:13–16 — Christians are salt and light
- 1 Peter 2:12–17 — Live honorably among the nations
  - *Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge... As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honor the emperor.*
- Philippians 3:20 — Our citizenship is in heaven



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## Faith in Public Life

- Scripture anchors:
- Matthew 5:13–16 — Christians are salt and light
- 1 Peter 2:12–17 — Live honorably among the nations
- Philippians 3:18–20 — Our citizenship is in heaven
  - For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.



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## Faith in Public Life

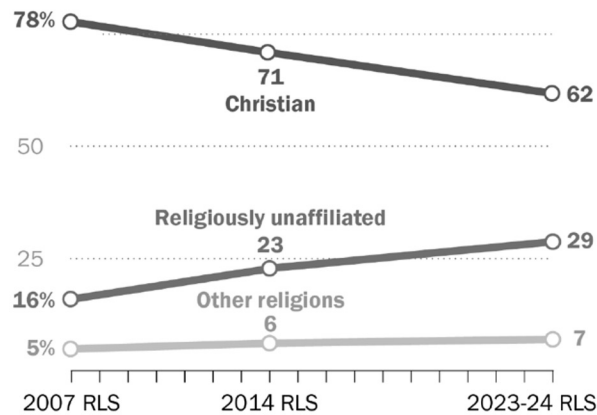
- Scripture anchors:
  - Matthew 5:13–16 — Christians are salt and light
  - 1 Peter 2:12–17 — Live honorably among the nations
  - Philippians 3:20 — Our citizenship is in heaven
- **The Church influences society without becoming captive to it.**



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### Long-term decline of Christians, rise of religiously unaffiliated Americans

% of U.S. adults who identify as ...



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown. "RLS" stands for Religious Landscape Study.  
 Source: Religious Landscape Study of U.S. adults conducted July 17, 2023-March 4, 2024.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



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## Conclusion: Love Lived Publicly

- Scripture anchors:
- Matthew 22:37–40 — Love God and love neighbor
  - *Jesus said, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”*
- 2 Corinthians 5:18–20 — Ministry of reconciliation



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## Conclusion: Love Lived Publicly

- Scripture anchors:
- Matthew 22:37–40 — Love God and love neighbor
- 2 Corinthians 5:18–20 — Ministry of reconciliation
  - *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled*



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## Conclusion: Love Lived Publicly

- Scripture anchors:
- Matthew 22:37–40 — Love God and love neighbor
- 2 Corinthians 5:18–20 — Ministry of reconciliation
- **Peace, justice, and dignity are not optional causes.**
- **They are the public shape of Christian love.**

