

TO BE A CHRISTIAN  
*Believing in Christ | Concerning Holy Scripture §25-35*

AUTHORITY (§25)

**Question:** What authorities operate in our lives and the world? What is the source of those authorities?

WHAT IS HOLY SCRIPTURE? (§26-28, 30-32, 35)

**Question:** What does this [God reveals himself] show us of God's character? How do you respond to that picture, idea, or character of God?

HOW SHOULD WE READ/UNDERSTAND HOLY SCRIPTURE? (§29, 33-34)

**Question:** What is your experience reading the Old Testament? the New Testament?

REFLECTIONS

- What are ways you have encountered the Lord in the Holy Scriptures?
- What are ways the Holy Spirit encourages/corrects you through the Holy Scriptures?

*The Deacon, or the Bishop, pours the water for Baptism.*

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with your spirit.**

*Bishop* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Bishop* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The Bishop continues*

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John in the River Jordan when the Holy Spirit descended upon him as a dove.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are made regenerate by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*Here the Bishop touches the water and says*

Now, Father, sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit. May all who are baptized here be cleansed from sin, be born again, and continue for ever faithful in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**