

WELCOME!

*It is a pleasure to see you today,
especially if you are here as a family member or friend of the person being baptised.*

*Please take a minute to read these introductory notes
which will help you as we go through the service.*

Mobile phones: please turn them off as even on silent mode they can upset our amplification system.

Photography: taking photographs can be distracting to others. Please do not take any photographs or videos during the service, including the baptism itself. After the service the Vicar will be pleased to pose with the baptismal party at the font.

The Welcome and Peace: after the baptism there is a time to greet each other. This is not the best time to engage in long conversations. Once you have greeted a few people at the back of church please return to your seat and encourage others to do the same. Please join us after the service when refreshments are served at the back of church.

The Collection: is taken during the hymn after the baptism.

Thank you.

We hope to welcome you again soon.

¶ **The Gathering**

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

At the entry of the ministers a welcome is given, notices may be read

Presentation of the Candidates

The candidates are presented to the congregation.

The president asks those candidates for baptism who are able to answer for themselves

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

Testimony by the candidate(s) may follow.

The president addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome *these children/candidates* and uphold *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

All With the help of God, we will.

At the baptism of children, the president then says to the parents and godparents

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *these children* with joy. Today we are trusting God for *their* growth in faith. Will you pray for *them*, draw *them* by your example into the community of faith and walk with *them* in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism these children begin their journey in faith. You speak for them today. Will you care for them, and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

Lighting the Pascal Candle

The Pascal Candle is lit by representatives of those making the Baptismal Promises.

Commentary

*the right hand pages of this booklet provide information
about the content of the service*

The opening of the service is about getting to know one another.

- We are greeted and welcomed to the service
- The candidates for Baptism are introduced to the congregation
- The candidates speak of Baptism
- The congregation declare their support for the candidates
- The candidates state their intentions
- The faith of the candidates is signified with the lighting of the Pascal Candle

The Decision

*The president addresses the candidates directly,
or through their parents, godparents and sponsors*

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.
Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Signing with the Cross

*The president or another minister makes the sign of the cross
on the forehead of each candidate, saying*

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

*The president may invite Parents, godparents and sponsors
to sign the candidates with the cross.*

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**All Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All Amen.

*The opening hymn is announced and the Baptism party
take their place with the congregation*

- The candidates declare their allegiance to Jesus Christ

by turning from what is wrong...

...and turning to the goodness of God

- The faith of the candidates is demonstrated with the sign of the Cross
- The candidates are encouraged in their faith
- God is asked to strengthen the candidates

Prayer of Preparation

All God and Father of us all,
in Christ you gave us one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
look in your love upon the Church,
the fellowship of the baptized,
and renew her life in unity and peace. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

God shows his love for us in this: while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Sure of reconciliation through the death of his Son, we confess our sins to God.

Prayer of Confession

All Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud
like the morning dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Kyrie Eleison may be sung

Prayer of Absolution

May God who loves the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect

¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

Reading

At the end of each the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A hymn is sung during which the ministers and candidates gather at the baptismal font.

The service continues with prayer

- We approach *God* asking for his goodness
- We pray about the wrong in our lives and our desire to be made righteous
- We are assured of *God's* forgiveness
- The character of the Church year is expressed in prayer

The Christian Faith is expressed and explained

- A reading is given from the Bible
these words are inspired by God
- The meaning of faith is explored

¶ *The Baptism*

Prayer over the Water

The president stands before the water of baptism and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

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 reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may be cleansed from sin and born again. Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Profession of Faith

The president addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

The Sacrament of Baptism takes place

Baptise means to immerse,

God invites us to live with him in a relationship of love

- Baptism begins because God is faithful
- We respond with praise
- The symbolism of water is explained
- Jesus' acts of salvation are declared
- The fruits of Jesus' actions are claimed

Using the Apostle's Creed we express the threefold person of God

Father God who creates the universe and our lives

Son God who gives salvation to the world

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

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

Baptism

If the candidate(s) can answer for themselves, the president may say to each one

N, is this your faith?

This is my faith.

The president or another minister pours water on them, saying

N, I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The president says

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All Amen.

To the newly baptized who are able to answer for themselves, a minister may give a series of charges to each of which the reply is:

With the help of God, I will.

The charges conclude with:

May Christ dwell in your *hearts* through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**

Receiving of gifts

A presentation of certificates and presents is made

Prayers of Intercession

These responses are used

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

And at the end

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

- The candidates are baptized in the threefold name of *God*
- The candidates are encouraged in their path of faith
- Those who are old enough declare make their own response
- A number of gifts are given to the candidates

Prayers are offered for the Church and the world

With confidence we pray to *God* who has made the world and acts with loving care

The Welcome and Peace

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: *N*,
by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

**All We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

The president introduces the Peace

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

*The Offertory Hymn is announced during which a collection is taken
and the congregation return to their seats*

Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

One or more of the prayers at the preparation of the table may be said.

The president takes the bread and wine.

Eucharistic Prayer H

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

**All You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**All He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

We express our shared lives as Christians

- The newly baptized are welcomed
- We share the peace that Christ give to us

The Sacrament of Holy Communion takes place

*Holy Communion is the family meal of the church,
here we are fed by God
so that we can go and live lives of service for him*

- An offering is received of bread, wine and the collection from the congregation
- Eucharist is a word that means thanksgiving. This prayer is to give thanks for the salvation Christ has made and is expressed through bread and wine
- God is faithful
- God knows our lives

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all. .**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

- Jesus told us that the bread speaks of the sacrifice of his body

- Jesus told us that the wine speaks of the blood that he shed for us

- The salvation of God is given to us by God the Holy Spirit

- We share with the world wide church in our worship

- We praise God for his goodness

We pray the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Lord, we died with you on the cross

All Now we are raised to new life

We were buried in your tomb.

All Now we share in your resurrection.

Live in us that we may live in you.

Invitation

The president says this invitation to communion

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ

which he gave for you,

and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,

and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*If you are used to receiving communion in your own church,
you are welcome to receive communion at this point.*

*Alternatively, please come forward for prayer for God's blessing in your life,
and indicate this by holding a hymn book in your hands as you do so.*

Giving of Communion

Prayer after Communion

¶ The Dismissal

The Blessing

The God of all grace,

who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,

establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you now and remain with you always.

All Amen

Giving of a Lighted Candle

*A Baptismal Candle is lit from the Pascal Candle by a representative of each of those
who made the Baptismal Promises*

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

**All Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

- In breaking the bread we declare that the one God has offered his one salvation to all

- The congregation are invited to share bread and wine if they are used to receiving it or to receive a prayer of blessing if not

We are all dismissed to serve God in the world, especially those who are newly baptized

- We leave knowing God's blessing

- The baptized leave to show God's goodness to the world

- Everyone has the privilege of serving God