

Service of Holy Baptism

1. The Priest may give a welcome & introduction

Priest The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

All and also with you.

The Collect

Priest Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever.

2. A Reading from the Bible

This or another reading will be used

People were bringing little children to him in order that he lay his hands on them in blessing; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Address

3. The Liturgy of Baptism

Priest 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.

The priest then says to the parents and godparents

Priest 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?

Parents and Godparents

With the help of God, we will.

Priest 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?

All With the help of God, we will.

4. The Decision

Priest 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 turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

5. Profession of Faith

Priest Let us affirm, together with these who are being baptized, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All I believe and trust in him.

Priest Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

All I believe and trust in him.

Priest This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

6. Prayer over the Water

Priest Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All who keeps his promise for ever.

Priest 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.

7. Baptism

The priest pours water on those to be baptised, saying

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

All Amen.

8. Signing with the Cross

Priest 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.

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.

9. The Welcome

Priest 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.

10. Giving of a Lighted Candle

Priest God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.
N, 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.

11. Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

All Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name: thy kingdom come; thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Priest The Blessing

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