

HOLY BAPTISM OF A CHILD

INTRODUCTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit, and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth. Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. Here we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life.

THE BAPTISM COLLECT

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.
Amen.

A BIBLE READING – *Mark 10: 13-16*

THE BAPTISM TALK

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

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?
With the help of God, we will.

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.

THE DECISION

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.

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

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.

Amen.

A hymn may be sung

PRAYER OVER THE WATER

The ministers and candidates gather at the baptismal font.

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 the Holy Spirit, *N* 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.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The president addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with *these candidates* the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

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.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

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.

THE BAPTISM

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

A minister may say

You have been clothed with Christ. As many as are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

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.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Prayers are offered for the candidate and their family, and we conclude by saying together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who 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.

THE WELCOME AND PEACE

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

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

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 **and also with you.**

A minister may say

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace. The congregation may greet the newly baptized.

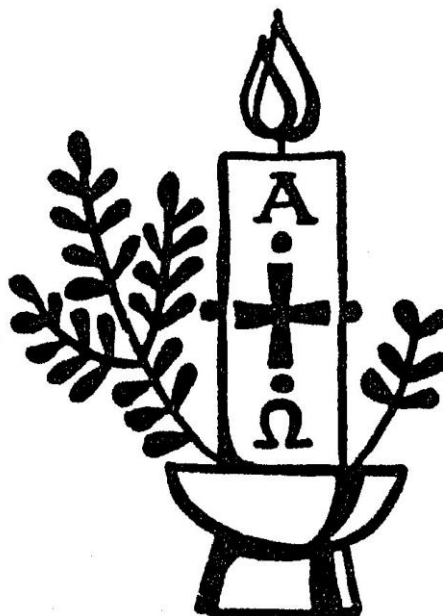
GIVING OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

The president or another person may give all candidates a lighted candle. When all have received a candle, the president says

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.

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



***The Vicar, Wardens and Council
congratulate you on this important day.
You will remain in our prayers in the weeks
to come.***

THE BLESSING

The president may say

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 among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

*Children and their families are welcome to join
us for any of our regular services or more
especially to our Junior P+J Service at
11.30am on the third Sunday of each month.*

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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