

The Order for Baptism

This service may be used within Morning or Evening Prayer (after the second Lesson) on the Lord's Day or a Holy Day. It may be used for both infants and adults. The Minister coming to the font (which is filled with pure water) addresses the congregation.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the Sacrament of Baptism is offered in the Church because our Lord Jesus Christ taught us that we cannot enter the kingdom of God unless we are born anew of water and the Holy Spirit. This new birth is necessary because all human beings have both an inclination towards evil and are also sinners. Therefore, I urge you to call upon God the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that in his great mercy he will grant new birth to this *Child/Person* that *he/she* may be baptized with water and the Holy Spirit, and received into Christ's holy Church and be made a living member of the same.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you who mercifully saved Noah and his family in the Ark when the great flood came, who safely led the children of Israel through the Red Sea, symbolizing thereby your holy Baptism, and who, by the Baptism in the river Jordan your dearly loved Son, Jesus Christ, sanctified water to the mystical washing away of sin: We pray you, in your infinite mercy, to look on this *Child/Person*, wash and sanctify *him/her* by the Holy Spirit, in order that, being delivered from your wrath, *he /she* may be received into the Ark of Christ's Church. Make *him/her* we pray, to be steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love, so that passing through the stormy waters of this troubled world, *he/she* may finally come to the land of everlasting life, there to reign with you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and immortal God, giver of aid to the needy, strength to the helpless, and everlasting life to those who believe, we pray for this *Child/Person* who is coming to your holy Baptism, that *he/she* may receive forgiveness of *his/her* sins by spiritual regeneration. Receive *him/her*, as you have promised by your dearly beloved Son in the Gospel, and make *him/her* to come to the eternal kingdom, which you have promised by him who is the Resurrection and the Life, even Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then the people stand up, and the Minister says the Gospel (Mark 10.13-16 for infants, and John 3.1-8 for adults) and makes this brief exhortation on the words of the Gospel.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, you hear in this Gospel the words of our Savior Christ commanding the children be brought to him. You see how he took them in his arms, he laid his hands upon them, and blessed them. Do not doubt, therefore, but earnestly believe, that he loves *this Child*, that he approves our bringing of *them* to holy Baptism, that he is ready to receive *them* with the arms of his mercy, and (as he has promised in his holy Word) to give *them* the blessing of eternal life, and make *him/her* a *partaker(s)* of his everlasting kingdom. Wherefore, after this promise made by Christ, *this Child* must also faithfully, for *his/her* part, promise by you that are *his/her* guarantors, (until *he/she* come of age to take it upon *himself/herself*), that *he/she* will renounce the devil and all his works, and constantly believe God's holy Word, and obediently keep his commandments.

And for Adults, the following exhortation is made.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, you hear in this Gospel the words of our Savior Christ that except each one of us is born of water and of the Spirit, we cannot enter into the kingdom of God. You see, therefore, the necessity of this Sacrament.

Likewise, immediately before his ascension into heaven, (as we read in the last Chapter of Mark's Gospel,) he commanded his disciples, saying, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." Do not doubt, therefore, but earnestly believe, that he will favorably receive all who repent of sin and believe the promises of the Gospel; that he will grant them remission of their sins, and bestow on them the Holy Spirit; that he will give them the blessing of eternal life, and that he will make them partakers of his everlasting kingdom.

The Minister may deliver an appropriate Address or Sermon.

After the Address or Sermon the Minister says,

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, since we are now persuaded of the good will of our heavenly Father towards this *Child/Person*, declared by his Son Jesus Christ, let us faithfully and devoutly give thanks to him and say together,

**Almighty and everlasting God, heavenly Father,
we humbly thank you for having called us
to the knowledge of your grace
and to faith in you.**

**Increase this knowledge
and confirm this faith in us evermore.**

**Give your Holy Spirit to this *Child/Person*,
that *he/she* may be born again,
and be made an heir of everlasting salvation;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.**

Amen.

Then the Parents and Godparents shall stand at the font and the Minister says,

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, you have brought this child to be baptized, you have prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would be pleased to receive, to cleanse, to sanctify, and to make *him/ her* an heir of the kingdom of heaven and everlasting life. You have heard that our Lord Jesus Christ has promised in the Gospel all these things and we know that he will surely keep his promises.

Then the Adult candidate(s) for Baptism and Sponsor(s) shall stand at the font and the Minister says,

You have come here desirous to be baptized and you have heard how the congregation has prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would be pleased to receive you and bless you, to forgive your sins and to give you the kingdom of heaven and everlasting life. You have heard also that our Lord Jesus Christ has promised in his holy Word to grant all these things that we have prayed for, and we know that he will surely keep his promises.

The Minister asks the Godparents the following question,

Do you in the name of this child renounce the devil and all his works, the vain show and glory of this world, with all its covetousness, and the sinful desires of human nature, so that you will not follow nor be led by them?

Answer. **I renounce them all.**

Then the Minister asks the Adult candidate(s) the following question,

Do you personally renounce the devil and all his works, the vain show and glory of this world, with all its covetousness, and the sinful desires of human nature, so that you will not follow nor be led by them?

Answer. **I renounce them all.**

Then the Minister asks the Parents, Godparents, and Adult candidate(s) this question.

Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord? And that he was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary; that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; that he descended into hell; and on the third day rose again; that he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead?

And do you 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?

Answer. **All this I steadfastly believe.**

Minister. Do you desire to be baptized in this Faith?

Answer. **That is my desire.**

Minister. Will you keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life?

Answer. **I will with God's help.**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, grant that this *Child/your Servant* die to sin, be buried and rise again to eternal life in and with Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Grant that all sinful desires may die in this *Child/your Servant*, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *him/her*. **Amen.**

Grant that *he/she* may have power and strength by faith to have victory, and to triumph against the devil, the world and sinful human nature. **Amen.**

Grant that whoever here begins to be a member of your flock may continue in the same forever. **Amen.**

Grant that whoever here is dedicated to you by our office and ministry may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly rewarded, through your mercy, blessed Lord, who lives and governs all things, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Father, almighty and everlasting God, whose most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins, shed from his most precious side at the Cross both water and blood; and later gave commandment to his disciples, that they should go teach the all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Hear the prayer of your people; sanctify this water to the mystical washing away of sin; and grant that this *Child/Person* now to be baptized in it, may receive the fullness of your grace, and ever remain in the number of your faithful and elect children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then the Minister shall take the child into his hands and shall say to the Godparents,
Name this child.

The Minister pours water over each Child and Adult candidate saying,

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

We receive this *Child/Person* into the congregation of Christ's flock, and sign *him/her* with the sign of the Cross, in token that from this time forward *he/she* shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and courageously to fight under his banner against sin, the world and the devil; and to continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant until *his/her* life's end. **Amen.**

When all have been baptized, the Minister says,

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, now that this *Child/Person* has received the Sacrament of new birth and been received into the family of Christ's Church, let us give thanks unto Almighty God for these benefits; and with one accord make our prayers unto him, that this *Child/Person* may lead the rest of *his/her* Christian life according to this good beginning.

Let us, as God's children, say together,

**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. Amen.**

Grant, Lord, that being buried with Christ by baptism into his death, this *Child/Person* may also be made partaker of his resurrection; so that serving you on earth in newness of life, *he/she* may finally, with the rest of your holy Church, be an inheritor of your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

When a child has been baptized, the Minister, speaking to the Parents and Godparents, says the following Exhortation.

Since *this Child* has promised by you *his/ her* guarantors to renounce the devil and all his works, to believe in God, and to serve him; you must remember, that it is your part and duty to see that *this Child* is taught, as soon as *he/ she* is be able to learn, what a solemn vow, promise, and profession, *he/ she* has made here by you. And that *he/ she* may know these things the better, you shall expect *him/ her* to hear sermons; and to make sure that *he/ she* learns the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and all other things that a Christian ought to know and believe for their soul's health; and that *this Child* may be virtuously brought up to lead a godly and a Christian life; remembering always that Baptism is the sign of our profession; which is to follow the example of our Savior Christ, and to be made like him; that, as he died and rose again for us, so should we who are baptized, die from sin and rise again to righteousness; continually putting to death all our evil and corrupt desires, and to continue daily in all virtue and godliness of living.

And the Minister speaking to the newly baptized Adult(s) says this Exhortation.

And as for you, who have now by Baptism put on Christ, it is your part and duty also, being made the *Child/ Children* of God and of the light, by faith in Jesus Christ, to walk in a manner worthy of your Christian calling and that becomes the children of light; remembering always that Baptism is the sign of our profession; which is to follow the example of our Savior Christ, and to be made like him; that, as he died and rose again for us, so should we who are baptized, die from sin and rise again to righteousness; continually putting to death all our evil and corrupt desires, and to continue daily in all virtue and godliness of living.

The Minister may here end with the Collects, general intercessions, and prayers as he shall think fit, or with the Grace.