

Service of Baptism



The leader says to the congregation:

Baptism is a sign of faith in Jesus and a mark that distinguishes Christians from unbelievers. Even more, baptism is a sign of regeneration or new birth. As an instrument of God's grace, they that receive Baptism rightly are grafted into the Church. As such two promises are visibly signed and sealed. The promises of forgiveness of sin, and of our adoption to be the sons of God by the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, faith is confirmed and grace increased by means of our prayer to God.

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.

At the baptism of children, the leader 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 in the Lord Jesus Christ. 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

The leader speaks to 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.

Profession of Faith

The leader speaks to the congregation
Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with *these candidates / parents / godparents* 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.

Baptism

If the candidate(s) can answer for themselves, the leader says to each
N, is this your faith?

Each candidate answers in their own words, or
This is my faith.

The leader or another minister dips each candidate in water, or pours water on them, saying
N, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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.**

The congregation says
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.

The leader 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.
Amen.

Commission

We have brought *these children* to baptism knowing that Jesus died and rose again for *them* and trusting in the promise that God hears and answers prayer. We have prayed that in Jesus Christ *they* will know the forgiveness of *their* sins and the new life of the Spirit.

As *they* grow up, *they* will need the help and encouragement of the Christian community, so that *they* may learn to know God in public worship and private prayer, follow Jesus Christ in the life of faith and serve their neighbour after the example of Christ.

As part of the Church of Christ, we all have a duty to support *them* by prayer, example and teaching. As their parents and godparents, you have the prime responsibility for guiding and helping *them* in their early years. This is a demanding task for which you will need the help and grace of God. Therefore let us now pray for grace in guiding *these children* in the way of faith in Jesus.

Prayers are said and then a Bible is given
Receive a copy of the Word of God. It contains all things necessary for *N* to know Jesus personally, to live for Jesus daily, and to enter life with Jesus eternally.

The Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: *N* and *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.