

An additional order for the Baptism of Young Children

This service is used when **only young children are to be baptized**.

- 1 The Sacrament of Baptism is normally administered during an act of public worship. It is preferable that it follow the sermon, but it may be used before the Ministry of the Word.
- 2 If *candles* are to be given to the newly-baptized, *they* may be lit from the Easter Candle or some other candle lit at the beginning of the service.
- 3 Prayers for *those* who have been baptized, and for *their* families, should be included in the prayers of intercession.
- 4 The minister shall ensure that a certificate of Baptism is given to the *parents* of each newly-baptized child during or after the service.

1 Hymn

THE DECLARATION

2 Baptism is a sign of God's love.

In it we celebrate the life of Christ laid down for us,
the Holy Spirit poured out on us,
and the living water offered to us.

We respond to the words and command of Jesus, who said:

'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Other sentences of scripture (for example Acts 2:38-39, Isaiah 43:1-2a, Ezekiel 36:25a, 26a, Matthew 19:13-15, Romans 6:3-4, Titus 3:4-7, 1 Peter 2:9 may be read). The minister may give other words of introduction or explanation.

3 The minister or another person says:

A and B (A), do you wish *N (N and N)* to be baptised?

Answer: We/I do.

Today therefore we welcome *N (N and N)* into the household of God.

By bringing *N (N and N)* for Baptism we affirm God's love for *her/him*,
and our hope in God's promise for the world.

THE THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

4 All stand, as able

The parents and godparents gather round or near the baptistery or font, with those to be baptized. Wherever possible, members of the family or church should be involved in bringing water to the font. The water is poured into the font.

The minister stands at the font or baptistery and says:

Loving God,
we thank you for your servant Moses,
who led your people through the waters of the Red Sea
to freedom in the Promised Land.
We thank you for your Son Jesus,
who has passed through the deep waters of death
and opened for all the way of salvation.

The minister may extend her/his hands over the water:

Pour out your Holy Spirit
that *those/the one* baptised in this water
may die to sin, be raised with Christ,
and be born to new life in the family of your Church.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

5 The people remain standing.

The minister says to the *parents (and godparents)*:

Do you turn away from evil and all that denies God?

Answer: By the grace of God, I do.

Do you turn to God, trusting in the Lord Jesus who loves you and *these children*,
and in the Holy Spirit who will help and guide you?

Answer: By the grace of God, I do.

6 The minister says to everyone present:

EITHER

In words that have been passed down through the centuries, we proclaim the faith of the Church. They belong to all who have ever gathered in Christ's name. We share in them today.

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 God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 God 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.**

OR

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life?

We do.

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

We do.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?

We do.

This is the faith of the Church.

THE BAPTISM

7 The minister says to the *parents* of each child:

What name have you given this child?

The *parents* respond with the Christian name(s) of the child.

8 The minister may say to *those to be baptised*:

N and N (N),
for you, Jesus Christ came into the world;
for you he lived and showed God's love;
for you he suffered death on the cross;
for you he triumphed over death,
rising to newness of life;
for you he prays at God's right hand:
all this for you,
before you could know anything of it.
In your Baptism, the word of Scripture is fulfilled:
'We love, because God first loved us.'

9 The minister, taking each child into her/his arms, pours water generously and visibly on the child's head, or dips the child in water three times, once at the mention of each Person of the Holy Trinity, saying:

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

The minister says to the newly baptized:

N and N (N), with joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's Church to share with us in the life and ministry of Christ.

The minister may invite the congregation to celebrate the baptism with applause.

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each newly-baptized child, saying:

N, I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

10 The people sit.

A lighted candle may be given to the *parents or godparents* of each child. The candle should remain lit during the prayers and promises that follow.

The minister or a representative of the local church says to the *children*:

N and N (N),
receive this light,
for you belong to Christ, the Light of the world.

Christ is your Light and your way.
Walk in the way of Christ.

11 All say or sing:

**The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord look on you with kindness
and give you peace. Amen.**

THE BAPTISMAL PROMISES

12 The *parents* (and *godparents*) stand.

The minister says to the *parents*:

From this day *N and N (N)* will have a home
in the Christian community,
and there will always be a place for *them*
in the household of God.

Will you tell *them* about today,
unfold for *them* the treasure *they have* received,
so that *they* may know *they are* baptized, *grow* in Christ,
and make *their* own response in faith and love?

With God's help, we will.

Will you set before *them* a Christian example,
that through your prayers, words and actions
they may learn the way of Christ?

With God's help, we will.

13 If there *are godparents*, the minister says to *them*:

C and D (C),
will you help *these parents*
to care for *N and N (N)*,
and to bring them up in the Christian faith?

With God's help, we will.

THE PROMISE OF THE PEOPLE

14 The minister says to the people:

Members of the Body of Christ, we rejoice that *N and N (N)* have been baptised. We are
called to share in the Church's life of worship and service.

Will you be a church where *they are* helped in faith, upheld in prayer,
and encouraged in acts of kindness and Christian service?

With God's help, we will.

15 The people sit.

A Bible or some other book may be given.

A certificate of Baptism may be given.

16 The minister says:

Let us pray.

**God of grace and life,
in your love you have given us
a place among your people;
keep us faithful to our baptism,
and prepare us for that glorious day
when the whole creation will be made perfect
in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

17 The Lord's Prayer, if it is not said at some other point in the service

EITHER

We say together the prayer
that Jesus gave us:

**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.
Save us from the time
of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the
glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

OR

As our Saviour taught his
disciples, we pray:

**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.**

18 Hymn

The newly baptised and those accompanying them return to their places. The candle may be extinguished.

19 The service continues.