

Prayers & Anointing

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

The minister lays hands on the head of the baptized:

P: God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon _____: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence. Amen.

The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized as the following words are spoken. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used.

P: _____, child of God, you have been sealed by the power of the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

A lighted candle may be given to the baptized (or to the sponsor of a young child), as the following words are spoken:

A: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

When small children are baptized, this prayer may be said:

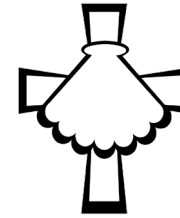
P: God, our heavenly Father, give your grace and peace to the father and mother of _____. Grant them strength, patience, comfort and compassion to be trustworthy parents. Make them teachers and examples of faith, that they may be witnesses to their children of the love that you have given to us all in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Presentation & Welcome

A: Through baptism, God has granted to _____ the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that together we may proclaim the praise of God, and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C: We welcome you into the Lord's family, joined to us in the body of Christ. By the Holy Spirit, we are children of the same heavenly Father and workers together in the Kingdom of God.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism



When used as part of the regular worship of the congregation, this service customarily follows the hymn after the sermon, replacing the Creed, which is incorporated into the baptismal service. While the hymn is sung, the baptismal candidate(s), sponsors, and parents gather at the font.

The minister addresses the group and the congregation.

Welcome

P: We gather together today to proclaim the promise of God through water and the Word, in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Baptism is not merely water; it is water used according to God's command and connected with God's Word, as Jesus taught us: "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." (Matthew 28:19)

Baptism brings about forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives everlasting salvation to all who believe, as the Word and promise of God declare: "He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy."

(Titus 3:5-8a)

Presentation & Charge

P: From ancient times, the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors to stand with baptismal candidates as they receive the Sacrament, and in their continuing life of faith.

I ask them to present the candidate(s) at this time:

R: We present _____ to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

When infants and young children are baptized:

P: As parents and sponsors of *these children* of God, you should faithfully bring *them* to the services of God's house, teaching *them* the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. You should pray for *them*, encourage *them*, and serve as examples of faith in Christ and in love for the neighbor. As *they* grow in years, you should place in *their* hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for *their* instruction in the Christian faith, that living in the covenant of *their* Baptism and in communion with the Church, *they* may lead *godly lives* until the day of Jesus Christ. Do you intend to fulfill these obligations?

R: I do.

When adults and older children are baptized:

P: _____, do you desire to be baptized?

R: I do.

P: As sponsors of *those* who are baptized, you are to pray for *them*, encourage *them*, and serve as examples of faith in Christ and in love for the neighbor. As God gives you opportunity, you should strive to build *them* up in the Word, that *they* may bear witness to the faith we profess, and that living in the covenant of *their* Baptism and in communion with the Church, *they* may lead *godly lives* until the day of Jesus Christ. Do you intend to fulfill these obligations?

R: I do.

Salutation & Prayer

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: We call upon you in faith and ask that you would bestow upon _____ the gifts of baptism through the washing of regeneration and renewal in your Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that *those* who are baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin that is cleansed by this water, and bring *them* forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom. To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Statement of Faith

The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

P: Now I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize:

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil and all his ways?

C: **I do.**

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: **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

The water is poured three times as the promise is spoken:

P: _____, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OR:

P: _____ is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.