

# The Liturgy of Baptism



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.**

## The 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.

*When all the candidates have been signed, the president says*

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

*All* **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.

*All* **Amen.**

*A Hymn may be sung or music played as the procession moves to the Font.*

## The Prayer over the Water

*The president stands before the water of baptism and says*

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

*All* **who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **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 your Holy Spirit, they 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.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Presentation of the Candidates

*The candidates, Parents & God Parents come forward to the front of the Church.*

*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?

*All* **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

*The president addresses 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.**

## The 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?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

*All* **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?

*All* **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

*The president 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.

*All* **Amen.**

*The president may say*

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.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Commission

*A minister addresses the congregation, parents and godparents, using these or similar words*

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, serve *their* neighbour after the example of Christ, and in due course come to confirmation.

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.

Faithful and loving God, bless those who care for *these children* and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith. Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love, and protect their home from all evil. Fill them with the light of your presence and establish them in the joy of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Giving of a Lighted Candle

*This may take place here or after the post communion prayer. Those who have been Baptised are given a lighted candle*

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.

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

## The Welcome and Peace

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

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

*The president introduces the Peace*

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

*All* **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*The Service continues with the Preparation of the gifts and communion.*

## The Blessing & Sending out

*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 upon you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**