

Baptism of Children

A HYMN may be sung

Priest The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

All and also with you.

Priest God our Creator, we thank you for the wonder of new life and for the mystery of human love. We give thanks for all whose support and skill surround and sustain the beginning of life. As Jesus knew love and discipline within a human family, may *these children* grow in strength and wisdom. As Mary knew the joys and pains of motherhood, give these parents your sustaining grace and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Where parents wish to recognize the role of supporting godparents and friends it may be appropriate for them to stand with the parents. One of them may present the child/ren to the minister, and informal words may be used.

Priest Do you receive *these children* as a gift from God?

Parents and Godparents: **We do.**

Priest Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek his blessing?

Parents and Godparents: **We do.**

Priest Will you do all that you can to help and support *N and N* in the bringing up of *N*?

Godparents: **With the help of God we will.**

A copy of a Gospel is presented, with these words

Priest Receive this book. It is the good news of God's love. Take it as your guide.

Priest Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever. **Amen.**

A HYMN may be sung

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

All sit for the Reading from the Bible and other readings

THE SERMON

THE LITURGY OF BAPTISM

Presentation of those to be baptised

Priest Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them'.

We thank God for *N* who has come to be baptized today.

Christ loves *them* and welcomes *them* into his Church.

So I ask you all:

Will you support *this child* as *they* begin *their* journey of faith?

All We will.

Will you help *them* to live and grow within God's family?

All We will.

The priest then addresses the parents and godparents

God knows each of us by name and we are his.

Parents and godparents, you speak for *N* today.

Will you pray for *them*, and help *them* to follow Christ?

We will.

THE DECISION

*The priest addresses those to be baptised directly,
or through their parents, godparents and sponsors*

Priest We all wander far from God and lose our way:
Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.
In baptism we respond to his call. Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?

I do.

Do you reject evil?

I do.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I do.

Do you trust in him as Lord?

I do.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

*The president or another minister makes the sign of the cross
on the forehead of each child to be baptised*

Priest Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

*The president may invite parents, godparents and sponsors
to sign the candidates with the cross.*

When all the candidates have been signed, the priest says

Priest Do not be ashamed of Christ.
You are his for ever.

All **Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

Priest May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All **Amen.**

A HYMN may be sung

The priest and those to be baptised gather at the baptismal font.

PRAYER OVER THE WATER

Priest 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 praise you, loving Father for the gift of your Son Jesus. He was baptized in the River Jordan, where your Spirit came upon him and revealed him as the Son you love. He sent his followers to baptize all who turn to him. Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water, that those who are baptized in it may be cleansed in the water of life; and filled with your Spirit, may know that they are loved as your children, safe in Christ for ever. **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Priest Let us affirm, together with *these* who *are* being baptized,
our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

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

All **I believe and trust in him.**

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

All **I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

*The president or another minister dips each candidate
in the water, or pours water on them, saying*

Priest N, I baptize you
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

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 priest and those who have been baptized may return from the font.

A HYMN may be sung

COMMISSION

Priest 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 homes*
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 WELCOME AND PEACE

Priest There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
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 congregation may greet the newly baptized.

Priest 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.

Prayers for the world are offered, ending with

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed by 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**

A HYMN may be sung
during which a collection may be taken

THE BLESSING

Priest 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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

GIVING OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

*The priest or another person may give the newly baptized a lighted candle.
When all have received a candle, the minister says*

Priest 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 DISMISSAL

Priest Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.