

Baptism service

The section headings, comments and minister's words are in plain type.

Congregational responses are in bold.

Responses by parents and godparents only are in red.



Welcome

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

And also with you.

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. **Amen.**

A hymn may be sung

Introduction – the meaning of baptism

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit, and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth. Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. Here we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life.

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 forever.
Amen.

If a candidate is making their own declaration of faith in order to be baptised, the minister asks:

Do you wish to be baptised? **I do.**

The congregation – along with parents and godparents – are asked whether they will support those being baptised:

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

We thank God for *N (and N)* who have come to be baptised today. Christ loves him/her/them and welcomes him/her/them into his Church. So I ask you all:

Will you support this child/these children as they begin their journey of faith?

We will.

Will you help him/her/them to live and grow within God's family? **We will.**

The parents and godparents now promise to support those being baptised, as the minister asks them to make the following commitments:

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

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

Will you pray for him/her/them,
and help him/her/them to follow Christ?

We will.

The candidate(s) and/or the parents and godparents now declare their own faith, on behalf of the child:

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.**

Affirmation of our Christian faith:

Let us now proclaim 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?

We 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?

We 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?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The blessing of the water – the minister prays the following prayer:

We praise you, loving Father, for the gift of your Son Jesus.

He was baptised in the River Jordan,

where your Spirit came upon him and revealed him as the Son you love.

He sent his followers to baptise all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water,

that those who are baptised 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 forever. **Amen.**

The minister now baptises each of the candidates:

I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The minister makes the sign of the cross on each candidate's forehead, saying:

Christ claims you as his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his forever.

**Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil,
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. **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 all God's people in glory. **Amen.**

The Welcome (used during main service only)

Receive this light. This to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

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

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism.

N, by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;

we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

Bible Reading & Short Reflection

Prayers of blessing for the candidate(s) and their family(ies)

Faithful and loving God, bless those who care for N
and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith.

Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love,
and protect their home(s) 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. **Amen.**

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.**

...concluding 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 forever. Amen.

A hymn may be sung

Final blessing