

HOLY BAPTISM TWO IN MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Pastoral Introduction

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the candidates but also parents, godparents and sponsors, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith. The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian way. There is the sign of the cross, the badge of faith in the Christian journey, which reminds us of Christ's death for us. Our 'drowning' in the water of baptism, where we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life, unites us to Christ's dying and rising, a picture that can be brought home vividly by the way the baptism is administered. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit. This reminds us of Jesus' baptism. And as a sign of that new life, there may be a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptized walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

As you pray for the candidates, picture them with yourself and the whole Church throughout the ages, journeying into the fullness of God's love.

The Gathering of God's People

Stand

The Greeting is said.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

On Easter Day

Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Luke 24: 34

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth. *John 4: 24*

A sentence of scripture may be read from those provided on pages 78-82

A hymn may be sung.

The minister may introduce the service in these or other suitable words:

Beloved in Christ,
we come together to offer to Almighty God
our worship and praise and thanksgiving,
to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness,
to hear his holy word proclaimed,
to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world,
and to pray that in the power of his Spirit
we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.

The minister says

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Kneel

Silence is kept.

**Heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault;
by what we have done**

and by what we have failed to do.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

The priest pronounces the absolution.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

Stand

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

FIRST CANTICLE

FIRST READING

The reader may say

A reading from ... chapter ... beginning at verse ...

After the reading silence may be kept.

PSALM

One or more of the appointed Psalms is sung, ending with

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

SECOND READING

The reader may say

A reading from ... chapter ... beginning at verse ...

After the reading silence may be kept.

SECOND CANTICLE

THIRD READING

The reader may say

A reading from the Gospel according to ... chapter ... beginning at verse ...

After the reading silence may be kept.

THIRD CANTICLE

THE SERMON

A hymn may be sung.

Introduction to the Baptism

The minister may use these or other words:

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 fulness of life.

At the baptism of an infant the following may be added:

Holy Baptism is administered to infants
on the understanding that they will be brought up in the fellowship of
Christ's Church;
that they will be taught the Christian faith;
and that, when they have publicly confessed this faith,
they will be confirmed by the bishop and admitted to the Holy Communion.

The Presentation

The presiding minister invites the candidates and their sponsors to stand in view of the congregation.

The presiding minister invites the sponsors of baptismal candidates to present the candidates.

We welcome those who come to be baptized. I invite their sponsors to present them now.

The sponsors answer

We present to be baptized.

The presiding minister says to the sponsors of those unable to answer for themselves
Parents and godparents, will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing for baptism and answer on their behalf. By your own prayers and example, by your teaching and love, will you encourage them in the life and faith of the Christian community?

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

At this point testimony may be given by one or more of the candidates.

The presiding minister says to the candidates able to answer for themselves, and to the sponsors of candidates

In baptism, God calls us from 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 proud 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.

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 presiding minister says to the congregation

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.

Will you support them in this calling?

The congregation answers

We will support them.

The presiding minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for baptism, either here or after the baptism with water, saying

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of the cross.

Live as a disciple of Christ,

fight the good fight,

finish the race, keep the faith.

**Confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
look for his coming in glory.**

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.**

A hymn may be sung.

The Baptism

The presiding minister and the candidates go to the place where the water for baptism is, and the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving prayer.

Water is poured into the font.

Praise God who made heaven and earth.

Who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister continues with either

We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life.

With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim your Kingdom.

Thanks be to God.

And now we give you thanks that you have called *names/these your servants* to new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that *those* who are baptized in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection.

May *they* die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue for ever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

or

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. **Amen.**

The presiding minister shall ask the following question of each candidate for baptism, or, in the case of those unable to answer for themselves, the sponsors of each candidate:

Do you believe and accept the Christian faith into which you are (... is) to be baptized?

I do.

The presiding minister 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?

**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 again 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.**

The presiding minister baptizes by dipping the candidates in the water, or by pouring water over them, saying

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

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

[[If those who have been baptized were not signed with the cross immediately after the Decision, they are signed now

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of the cross.

Live as a disciple of Christ,

fight the good fight,

finish the race, keep the faith.

**Confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
look for his coming in glory.]]**

The minister continues.

God has called you into his Church.

The congregation joins the minister, saying

**We therefore receive and welcome you
as a member with us of the body of Christ,
as a child of the one heavenly Father,
and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.**

THE PEACE

All stand.

The Peace is introduced with these or other suitable words:

We are the body of Christ.

By one spirit we were all baptized into one body.

Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life together.

The presiding minister says

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

A hymn may be sung.

Prayers of the People

The following prayer or other suitable prayer(s) may be said:

Father, we thank you that *have* now been born again of water and the Holy Spirit, and *have* become your own *children* by adoption, and *members* of your Church.

Grant that *they* may grow in the faith in which *they have* been baptized;
Grant that *they* themselves may confess it when *they come* to be confirmed;
Grant that *they* may bear witness to it by a life of service to others;
and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *them*;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

At the baptism of infants this, or another prayer for the family, may be used:

Almighty God, bless the *home* of *these children*,
and give such grace and wisdom to all who have the care of *them*,
that by their word and good example
they may teach *them* to know and love you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Other prayers for the community of the baptized and for God's mission in the world
may be said, concluding with the COLLECT OF THE DAY and the LORD'S PRAYER*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

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.**

or

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

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.**

Going Out as God's People

The presiding minister may say the seasonal blessing or another suitable blessing or

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. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

The presiding minister or another person may give each of the newly baptized a lighted candle.

The newly baptized are sent out with these words:

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.

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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
in the name of Christ. Amen.

Seasonal Variations and Readings

The three sets of variants for these principal baptismal seasons each contain: Introduction, a Collect, a Post Communion Prayer and a Blessing.

EPIPHANY :: THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD :: TRINITY SUNDAY

After the Greeting instead of Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us ... *the minister may say*

At our Lord's baptism in the river Jordan,
God showed himself to all who have eyes to see and ears to hear.
The Father spoke from heaven, the Spirit descended as a dove
and Jesus was anointed with power from on high.
For us baptism is the door of faith,
through which we enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
As children of God, we are adopted as his sons and daughters,
and called to proclaim the wonders of him
who called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

THE COLLECT

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened heaven's gate and revealed yourself as Father
by the voice that called Jesus your beloved Son,
baptizing him, in the power of the spirit;
reveal yourself to us now, to claim us as your children,
and so complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
in the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION

God of glory,
you inspired us with the breath of life
which brought to birth a new world in Christ.
May we who are reborn in him
be transformed by the renewal of our lives,
that the light of your new creation
may flood the world with your abundant grace;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God, who in his Christ gives us a spring of water
welling up to eternal life,
perfect in you the image of his glory;
and the blessing ...

EASTER DAY TO THE DAY OF PENTECOST

After the Greeting instead of Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us ... *the minister may say*

God raised Jesus Christ from the dead
and sent the Holy Spirit to recall the whole world to himself.
In baptism we die to sin and rise to newness of life in Christ.
Here we find rebirth in the spirit,
and set our minds on his heavenly gifts.
As children of God, we are continually created anew,
as we walk the path of faith,
and feed on the forgiveness of his healing grace.

THE COLLECT

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 and the Holy Spirit
now and for ever. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION

Author of life divine,
in the resurrection of your Son,
you set before us the mystery of his triumph over sin and death;
may all who are washed in the waters of rebirth
rise to newness of life
and find the promised presence of your abundant grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you by his life-giving Spirit
to walk with him in the paths of righteousness and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

IN ALL SAINTS-TIDE

After the Greeting instead of Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us ... *the minister may say*

In baptism, God calls us to be his friends
and to make us holy in his Son Jesus Christ.
On this journey of faith we have no abiding city,
for we have promise of the heavenly Jerusalem,
where the whole creation is brought to a new birth in the Holy Spirit.
Here we are united in the company of all the faithful,
and we look for the coming of the eternal kingdom.
As children of God, we look through this passing age
for the signs of the dawn of everlasting glory.

THE COLLECT

Almighty Father,
you have made us heirs through hope of your everlasting kingdom
and in the waters of baptism you have promised
a measure of grace overflowing to all eternity.
Take our sins and guilt away,
and so inflame us with the life of your Spirit
that we may know your favour and goodness towards us
and walk in newness of life,
both now and for ever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION

Lord, in the vision of your heavenly kingdom
you reveal among us the promise of your glory.
May that glory be ours
as we claim our citizenship in the kingdom
where you are alive and reign, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May God, who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints,
give you joy in their fellowship,
and strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

