

THE MINISTRATION OF PUBLIC BAPTISM OF INFANTS

TO BE USED IN THE CHURCH

At the Font

Priest

Hath this Child been already baptized, or no?

If the answer is, No; the priest proceeds

Dearly beloved, forasmuch as all men are conceived and born in sin, and that our Saviour Christ saith, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God, and also saith, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God; I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteous mercy he will grant to *this Child* that thing which by nature *he* cannot have; that *he* may be baptized with water and the Holy Spirit, and received into Christ's holy Church, and be made a lively member of the same.

Almighty and immortal God, the aid of all that need, the helper of all that flee to thee for succour, the life of them that believe, and the resurrection of the dead; We call upon thee for *this Infant*, that *he*, coming to thy Holy Baptism, may receive remission of *his* sins by spiritual regeneration. Receive *him*, O Lord, as thou hast promised by thy well-beloved Son, saying, Ask, and ye shall have; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: So give now unto us that ask; let us that seek find; open the gate unto us that knock; that *this Infant* may enjoy the everlasting benediction of thy heavenly washing, and may come to the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

or

Almighty and everlasting God, who of thy mercy didst save Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water; and also didst safely lead the children of Israel thy people through the Red Sea, figuring thereby thy Holy Baptism; and by the Baptism of thy well-beloved Son Jesus Christ, in the river Jordan, didst sanctify water to the mystical washing away of sin; We beseech thee, for thine infinite mercies, that thou wilt mercifully

look upon *this Child*; wash *him* and sanctify *him* with the Holy Spirit; that *he*, being delivered from thy wrath, may be received into the ark of Christ's Church; and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, that finally *he* may come to the land of everlasting life, there to reign with thee world without end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GOSPEL

Hear the words of the Gospel, written by Saint Mark, in the tenth chapter, at the thirteenth verse.

They brought young children to Christ, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

THE EXHORTATION

Beloved, ye hear in this Gospel the words of our Saviour Christ, that he commanded the children to be brought unto him; how he blamed those that would have kept them from him; how he exhorteth all men to follow their innocency. Ye perceive how by his outward gesture and deed he declared his good will toward them; for he embraced them in his arms, he laid his hands upon them, and blessed them, Doubt ye not therefore, but earnestly believe, that he will likewise favourably receive *this present Infant*; that he will embrace *him* with the arms of his mercy; that he will give unto *him* the blessing of eternal life, and make *him* partaker of his everlasting kingdom.

Wherefore, we being thus persuaded of the good will of our heavenly Father towards *this Infant*, declared by his Son Jesus Christ; and nothing doubting but that he favourably alloweth this charitable work of ours, in bringing *this Infant* to his Holy Baptism; let us faithfully and devoutly give thanks unto him, and say,

Almighty and everlasting God, heavenly Father, We give thee humble thanks, For that thou hast vouchsafed to call us to the knowledge of thy grace, and faith in thee: Increase this knowledge, And confirm this faith in us evermore. Give thy Holy Spirit to this Infant, That *he* may be born again, And be made an heir of everlasting salvation; Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, Now and for ever. Amen.

THE PROMISES

The priest says to the godfathers and godmothers

Dearly beloved, ye have brought *this Child* here to be baptized; ye have prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would vouchsafe to receive *him*, to release *him* of *his* sins, to sanctify *him* with the Holy Spirit, to give *him* the kingdom of heaven, and everlasting life. Ye have heard also that our Lord Jesus Christ hath promised in his Gospel to grant all these things that ye have prayed for; which promise he, for his part, will most surely keep and perform.

Wherefore, after this promise made by Christ, *this Infant* must also faithfully, for *his* part, promise by you that are *his* Sureties (until *he* come of age to take it upon *himself*), that *he* will renounce the devil and all his works, and constantly believe God's holy Word, and obediently keep his Commandments. I demand therefore,

Dost thou, in the name of this Child, renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow nor be led by them?

I renounce them all.

Dost thou believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth? And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord? And that he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; that he descended into hell, and the third day rose again from the dead; that he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from thence shall come to judge the quick and the dead? And dost thou 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?
All this I steadfastly believe.

Wilt thou be baptized in this faith?
That is my desire.

Wilt thou then obediently keep God's holy will and Commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life?
I will, God being my helper.

Priest

O merciful God, grant that the old Adam in *this Child* may be so buried, that the new man may be raised up in *him*. **Amen.**

Grant that all carnal affections may die in *him*, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *him*. **Amen.**

Grant that *he* may have power and strength to have victory, and to triumph, against the devil, the world, and the flesh. **Amen.**

Grant that whosoever is here dedicated to thee by our office and ministry may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly rewarded, through thy mercy, O blessed Lord God, who dost live, and govern all things, world without end. **Amen.**

The Baptism

Almighty, everliving God, whose most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins, did shed out of his most precious side both water and blood; and gave commandment to his disciples, that they should go teach all nations, and baptize them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; Regard, we beseech thee, the supplications of thy Congregation; sanctify this water to the mystical washing away of sin; and grant that *this Child*, now to be baptized therein, may receive the fulness of thy grace, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful and elect children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then the priest takes the child, and says to the godfathers and godmothers

Name this Child.

Naming the child, the priest dips it in the water, or pours water upon the child's head, saying

.... I baptize thee In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Priest

We receive this Child into the Congregation of Christ's flock; and * do sign *him* with the sign of the Cross, in token that hereafter *he* shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and manfully to fight under his banner, against sin, the world, and the devil; and to continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto *his* life's end. **Amen.**

** Here the priest makes the sign of the cross upon the child's forehead.*

Seeing now, dearly beloved brethren, that *this Child* is regenerate, and grafted into the body of Christ's Church, let us give thanks unto Almighty God for these benefits; and with one accord make our prayers unto him, that *this Child* may lead the rest of *his* life according to this beginning.

Prayers

All kneel

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.

We yield thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that it hath pleased thee to regenerate *this Infant* with thy Holy Spirit, to receive *him* for thine own *Child* by adoption, and to incorporate *him* into thy holy Church. And humbly we beseech thee to grant, that *he*, being dead unto sin, may live unto righteousness, and being buried with Christ in his death, may also be partaker of his resurrection; so that finally, with the residue of thy holy Church, *he* may inherit thine everlasting kingdom; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Charge

All stand

Forasmuch as *this Child* hath promised by you *his* Sureties to renounce the devil and all his works, to believe in God, and to serve him; ye must remember, that it is your parts and duties to see that *this Infant* be taught, so soon as *he* shall be able to learn, what a solemn vow, promise, and profession *he hath* here made by you; and that *he* be virtuously brought up to lead a godly and a Christian life; remembering always, that Baptism doth represent unto us our profession; which is, to follow the example of our Saviour Christ, and to be made like unto him; that, as he died, and rose again for us, so should we, who are baptized, die to sin, and rise again unto righteousness; continually overcoming all our evil passions, and daily increasing in all virtue and godliness of living.

Ye are to take care that *this Child* be brought to the bishop to be confirmed by him, so soon as *he* can say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and be further instructed in the Church Catechism set forth for that purpose.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13: 14*

It is certain by God's Word, that children which are baptized, dying before they commit actual sin, are undoubtedly saved.

Whereas the sign of the Cross is by this Office appointed to be used in Baptism according to the ancient and laudable custom of the Church, it is not thereby intended to add any new rite to the Sacrament as a part of it, or necessary to it; or that the using that sign is of any virtue or efficacy of itself; but only to remind all Christians of the Death and Cross of Christ, which is their hope and their glory; and to put them in mind of their obligation to bear the Cross in such manner as God shall think fit to lay it upon them, and to become conformable to Christ in his sufferings; as more largely is expressed in the thirtieth Canon of the Church of England (1604).

NOTES

- 1 The Minister of every parish shall teach the people the meaning of Baptism and the responsibilities of those who bring children to be baptized.
- 2 When there are children to be baptized, the parents shall give due notice to the Minister of the Parish, who shall thereupon appoint the time for the Baptism.
- 3 Sponsors and godparents must be baptized Christians and persons of discreet age, and at least two shall be members of the Church of Ireland or of a Church in communion therewith (Canon 26.4). It is desirable that parents be sponsors for their own children.
- 4 It is desirable that members of the parish be present to support, by their faith and prayer, those who are to be baptized and received into the fellowship of the Church.
- 5 When this order of Baptism is used with one of the prescribed services in any church, the Minister may dispense with such parts of that service as the Ordinary shall permit.
- 6 The font should be so situated that Baptism may be administered in an orderly fashion.

