

** Please note that this Liturgy of Baptism has been extracted from the main service to show more clearly what the core components of the Baptism are. The Baptism forms the middle of the service after the Sermon or Talk and before Holy Communion where we share bread and wine – the body and blood of Christ – together and partaking of his Risen Life.*

The Liturgy of Baptism

The Presentation of the Candidates

The candidates may be presented to the congregation. Where appropriate, they may be presented by their godparents or sponsors. The President asks those candidates for baptism who are able to answer for themselves

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

Testimony by the candidate(s) may follow.

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 this *child/candidate*
and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

At the baptism of children, the President then says to the parents and godparents

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *this child* 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 *this child* begins *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 Paschal Candle is lit. 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.

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.

Signing with the Cross

The President or another minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the candidate with the Oil of Catechumens, saying

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

When the candidate has 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.**

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.**

Prayer over the Water

The ministers and candidates gather at the baptismal font.

Water is poured into the font. The President 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.**

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.**

Baptism

If the candidate(s) can answer for themselves, the President may say to each one
N, is this your faith?

Each candidate answers in their own words, or
This is my faith.

The President 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.**

If the newly baptized are clothed with a white robe, a hymn or song may be used, and then the President may say

You have been clothed with Christ.
As many as are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Anointing

The President signs the candidate with the Oil of Chrism.
The President says,

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

Commission

Where the newly baptized are unable to answer for themselves, the President addresses the congregation, parents and godparents, using these or similar words

We have brought N 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 this child in the way of faith:

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 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.**

Here, a minister may say to the newly baptized who are able to answer for themselves

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.
Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?
With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your heart(s) through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.
Amen.

The Welcome and Peace

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.
The President introduces the Peace in these or other suitable words.*

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,

heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

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

A minister may say

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.