

Holy Baptism

IN HOLY COMMUNION

prepared by the Liturgy Commission of General Synod, October 2009,
for trial use under section 4 of the Constitution
where the diocesan bishop authorises it.

*This service is adapted from APBA pages 50-74,
where none of the candidates is able to answer for themselves.*

Hymns may be included in the service at appropriate places.

1 *The priest greets the people in these or other suitable words.*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

or *From Easter Day to Pentecost*

Christ is risen. [Alleluia.]
He is risen indeed. [Alleluia.]

2 *A Sentence of Scripture appropriate to the day or the occasion may be read, or the following dialogue used.*

There is one Body and one Spirit;
there is one hope in God's call to us.
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism,
one God and Father of all.

4 *The minister may continue with these or similar words*

Baptism is the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ.
When he had risen from the dead,
he commanded his followers to go and make disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

We have come together today to obey that command.

Baptism with water signifies the cleansing from sin that Jesus' death makes possible,
and the new life that God gives us through the Holy Spirit.

In baptism, the promises of God are visibly signed and sealed for us.

We are joined to Christ, and made members of his body, the Church universal.

So we welcome you, *name(s)*, with your sponsors [and families].

We give thanks for you,

and pray that you may know God's love and faithfulness for ever.

5 *The minister says*

Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy,
and confess that we need forgiveness.

[Let us pray.]

A pause for reflection

Lord God, you created this world, and made us in your own image.
Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death.
Rescue us from slavery to sin.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy

Lord God, by your Spirit, you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another.
Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and keep you in life eternal. Amen.

6 *A song of praise (for example, 'Glory to God in the highest') may be sung.*

7 *The priest says*

Let us pray.

The community may pray silently.

The priest then says or sings the Collect of the Day.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

8 *The Reading(s) from the Old Testament and/or the New Testament as appointed.*

9 *All stand for the Gospel Reading.*

Before the Gospel reading:

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to ...

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

10 *The Sermon.*

Silence may follow.

THE PRESENTATION

11 *The priest invites the sponsors to stand in view of the congregation.*

12 *The minister may say these or similar words.*

Children are baptised in response to God's all-embracing love.

Parents and godparents who have responded to that love come now to bring their children for baptism. Before this congregation they must express their own trust and commitment to the promises of God, and their intention to bring up their children in the faith and practice of the Church. In due time *these children* should make their own response to God, and be prepared for confirmation.

13 *The priest says to the sponsors*

Will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing *name/this child* for baptism?

I will.

Are you willing to answer on behalf of *name/this child*?

I am.

By your own prayers and example, by your friendship and love, will you encourage *name/this child* in the life and faith of the Christian community?

I will, with God's help.

THE DECISION

14 *The priest says*

Before God and this congregation, you must affirm that you turn to Christ and reject all that is evil:

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust?

I reject them all.

Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

I renounce all that is evil.

Almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light of Christ to his everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

15 *The minister says*

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**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 from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

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 priest says to the candidates and sponsors

Do you affirm this faith as yours?
I do.

Will you each, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

I will, with God's help.

16 *The priest 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.

THE PRAYERS

17 *The minister says*

Let us pray.

Grant, merciful God, that *these persons* may be so buried with Christ in baptism
that the new nature may be raised up in *them*.

May the fruit of your Spirit grow and flourish in *them*.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Give to *their* sponsors and their families the desire to share with *them*
what you have revealed in your holy gospel.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

May *they* know Christ's forgiving love
and continue in the fellowship and service of his Church.

May *they* proclaim, by word and example,
the good news of God in Christ.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the world in which we live,
for peace and harmony among all people.
Bring healing and wholeness to the sick [especially ...],

to those who mourn and to all in need.
God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We thank you for the ministry we have in your world
and to each other in the household of faith.
Hasten that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in Christ.
God of grace,
hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer may be said here if it is not said later in the service.

THE BAPTISM

18 *At the place where the water for baptism is, the priest begins the thanksgiving.*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

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.

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit. Through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph.

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.

And now we give you thanks that you have called *name/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 baptised 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 forever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

19 *Each candidate is brought to the water.*

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

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

AFTER BAPTISM

20 *When all have been baptised, the priest makes a cross on the forehead of each person, saying*
Name, I sign you with the sign of the cross to show that you are marked as Christ's own for ever.

The priest addresses all the newly baptised

Live as a disciple of Christ:
fight the good fight,
finish the race,
keep the faith.

and the congregation responds, saying

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

21 *The minister says*

God has brought you out of darkness
into his marvellous light.

and the congregation joins the minister in saying

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

22 *The minister continues*

God has called you into his Church.

The congregation joins the minister in 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 GREETING OF PEACE

23 *All stand. The Greeting of Peace is introduced with these or other suitable words.*

In baptism, God has made us one in Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

The priest says

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

All may exchange a sign of peace.

24 *The gifts of the people are brought to the Lord's Table.
They may be presented in silence or a suitable prayer, such as follows, may be used.*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

25 *The priest takes the bread and wine for the communion, places them on the Lord's Table, and says the following or another authorised Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration.*

[The Lord be with you.

And also with you.]

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour, be yours now and always,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

In baptism you have united us to him
and brought us out of darkness into light.
You pour your Spirit upon us, filling us with your gifts,
and calling us to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**[Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.]**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

The memorial acclamation is used here or below.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

The memorial acclamation may be used here.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

26 *The Lord's Prayer is said here or after the communion. The priest says*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION

27 *The priest breaks the bread. One of the following may be said.*

[We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.]
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

or

As this broken bread was once many grains,
which have been gathered together and made one bread:
**so may your Church be gathered
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

28 *The priest and other communicants receive the Holy Communion.*

The sacrament is given with the following words.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

and

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

or

the priest says

[The gifts of God for the people of God.]
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ
in remembrance that he died for us,
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The sacrament is given with the following words, after which the communicant responds Amen.

The body of Christ [the bread of heaven] keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ [the cup of salvation] keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

During the communion, psalms, hymns and anthems such as those given in APBA may be sung or said.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

29 *The priest says*

Let us pray.
Gracious God,
in baptism you make us one family in Christ your Son,
one in the sharing of his body and his blood,
one in the communion of his Spirit.
Help us to grow in love for one another
and come to the full maturity of the body of Christ.

30 *If it has not been said earlier, the Lord's Prayer is said.*

All say together

Father,
**we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

or

Most loving God,
**you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

31 *The priest or bishop blesses the congregation with this or another appropriate blessing.*

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted;
give honour to all; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

32 *The deacon may say*

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

or

Go in the name of Christ:
Thanks be to God.