

Holy Baptism

IN MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

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 72-82.

Hymns may be included in the service at appropriate places.

THE PREPARATION

1 *The priest says*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

2 *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.

3 *A Reading from the New Testament appropriate to baptism follows.*

4 *The Sermon.*

THE PRESENTATION

5 *The priest invites all candidates and their sponsors to stand in view of the congregation.*

Candidates able to answer for themselves may be invited to speak briefly about their faith in Christ.

6 *Where children are to be baptised, 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.

The priest says to the sponsors of those unable to answer for themselves

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

7 The priest says to the candidates able to answer for themselves, and to the sponsors of other candidates

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.**

8 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 able to answer for themselves, and to the sponsors of other candidates

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.

9 *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 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*, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

10 *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.**

11 *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.

And each one of them answers with their sponsors and the congregation

Amen.

AFTER BAPTISM

12 *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.**

13 *The minister says*

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

and the congregation joins the minister saying

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

14 *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 PRAYERS

15 *One or more of these and other suitable prayers may be said.*

Let us pray.

a For all who are baptised into Christ

Gracious God,
we who have been brought from death to life,
dedicate ourselves to you.
Produce in us the fruit of your Spirit.
Equip us to serve your people
and advance your gospel in the world.
Enable us to live in holiness and righteousness
and to please you in all that we do;
in the name of Jesus our Saviour. **Amen.**

b At the baptism of a child

Merciful God,
in your infinite love you have made a new covenant
with us in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
promising to be our God and the God of our children.
Enable all who are baptised in your name
to live as a covenant people.
Fulfil your promises for this child, we pray,
and grant that *he/she* may grow in your faith and service
until *his/her* life's end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

c A prayer for parents

Heavenly Father, we pray for the parents of *this child*;
give them the spirit of wisdom and love.
May their children grow up to love and reverence you
and their *home* share in the joy of your eternal kingdom. **Amen.**

d For godparents

God of truth and love,
we pray for the godparents of *names*.
Enable them to share with their *godchildren*
what you have revealed to us in your holy gospel.
We ask this in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

16 *If it is not used elsewhere in the service, the Lord's Prayer is said here.*

**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.**

17 The service concludes with these words.

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**