

## After Baptism

17-19. *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 forever.

*Priest:*

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

*Congregation:*

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

*Priest:*

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

*Congregation:*

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

*Priest:*

God has called you into his Church.

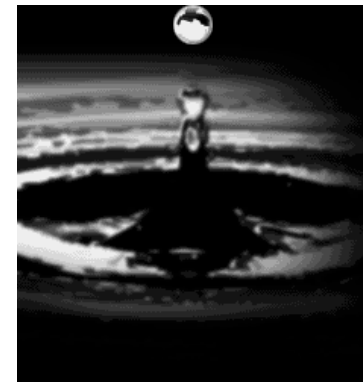
*Congregation:*

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

*Prayers may be offered for the candidates, sponsors, & congregation*



# A Service of Baptism



## Introduction

1. *A hymn, psalm or song may be sung.*
2. The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

3. *A sentence of Scripture may be read and the following words & responses may be used:*

There is one Body and one Spirit;

**There is one hope in God's call to us.**

One Lord, one Faith, on Baptism.

**One God and Father of all.**

4. *The minister says*

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.

*[When children are to be baptised, the minister says:*

Children are to be 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.]

**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.**

Do you believe in God the 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 priest says to the congregation:*

This is the faith of the Church.

*The congregation responds:*

**This is our faith:  
We believe in one God:  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

16. *Each candidate is brought to the water and is baptised.*

*Name,* I baptise you in the name of the Father,  
And of the Son,  
And of the Holy Spirit.

*The candidate, sponsors and congregation say*  
**Amen.**



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.**

*The priest continues*

And now we give you thanks that you have called *name(s)* 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 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.**

15. *The priest says to the candidates able to answer for themselves, and to the sponsors of other candidates*

I now ask you to affirm as yours the faith of the Church.  
Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe 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.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.**

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 forever.

5. *A reading from the New Testament may follow e.g. John 3:1-8; Acts 2:36-39 or another suitable reading*

**John 3:1-8**

- 1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council.
- 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."
- 3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."
- 4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"
- 5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.
- 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.
- 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'
- 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." (NIV)

**Acts 2:36-39**

- 36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."
- 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"
- 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off-- for all whom the Lord our God will call." (NIV)

6. *The sermon may be preached here or at #24*

## The Presentation

7. *The minister says*  
I invite the sponsors of *these persons* to present *them* for baptism.
- The sponsors answer*  
**We present *name(s)* to be baptised.**
8. *The priest says to the sponsors of those unable to answer for themselves*  
Will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing *this child* for baptism?  
**I will.**  
Are you willing to answer on behalf of *this child*?  
**I am.**  
By your own prayers and example, by your friendship and love, will you encourage *this child* in the life and faith of the Christian community?  
**I will, with God's help.**

## The Decision

9. *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.**

10. *The minister says to the candidates and sponsors*  
Will you, 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.**
11. *The 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 responds*  
**We will.**
12. [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*. **Amen.**  
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. **Amen.**  
We thank you for the ministry we have in your world and to each other in the household of faith. Hasten the day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in Christ. **Amen.**

## The Baptism

14. *The minister continues*  
We give you thanks that at the beginning of your creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life. With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; 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.**