

Service
of
Infant Baptism



Introduction

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit, and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit
now and for ever.

All

Amen.

Bible Reading

Talk

The presentation of the children

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 *these children/candidates* and uphold *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

All

With the help of God, we will.

The president then says to the parents and godparents

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *these children* 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 *these children* begin *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 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 turn away from sin?

I turn away from sin.

Do you reject evil?

I reject evil.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you trust in him as Lord?

I trust in him.

Prayer over the water:

Loving Father,

we thank you for your servant Moses,
who led your people through the waters of the Red Sea
to freedom in the Promised Land.

We thank you for your Son Jesus,
who has passed through the deep waters of death
and opened for all the way of salvation.

Now send your Spirit,
that those who are washed in this water
may die with Christ and rise with him,
to find true freedom as your children,
alive in Christ for ever.

Profession of Faith

The leader speaks to the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with *these parents and godparents* the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Baptism

The president pours water upon the child, saying:

*N, I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.*

May 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. **Amen.**

The congregation says

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.

The leader 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.

Amen.

Commission

The minister addresses the congregation, parents and godparents, using these or similar words

We have brought *these children* 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 and serve *their* neighbour after the example of Christ.

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 *these children* in the way of faith.

Prayers

(A Bible story book or Bible is given along with certificates)

The Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
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 Blessing

The president prays this or another suitable blessing

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All

Amen.