

Baptism and Confirmation

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Holy Baptism

Structure

¶ Preparation

The Greeting
 Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child
Introduction *
 † *Presentation of the Candidates*
The Collect *

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Readings and Psalm
Gospel Reading
Sermon

¶ The Liturgy of Baptism

† Presentation of the Candidates
The Decision
Signing with the Cross
Prayer over the Water *
Profession of Faith *
Baptism
Commission
† Prayers of Intercession *
The Welcome and Peace *
 † *Prayers of Intercession* *

¶ The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Table
Taking of the Bread and Wine
The Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord's Prayer
Breaking of the Bread
Giving of Communion
Prayer after Communion *

¶ The Sending Out

The Blessing *
Giving of a Lighted Candle
The Dismissal

† *indicates alternative position allowed and shown indented in italics*

* *indicates alternative texts are provided*

For Notes, see pages 98–101.

¶ Pastoral Introduction

This may be read by those present before the service begins.

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the candidates but also parents, godparents and sponsors, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith. The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian way. There is the sign of the cross, the badge of faith in the Christian journey, which reminds us of Christ's death for us. Our 'drowning' in the water of baptism, where we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life, unites us to Christ's dying and rising, a picture that can be brought home vividly by the way the baptism is administered. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit. This reminds us of Jesus' baptism. And as a sign of that new life, there may be a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptized walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

As you pray for the candidates, picture them with yourself and the whole Church throughout the ages, journeying into the fullness of God's love.

Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

John 10.10

Holy Baptism

¶ Preparation

At the entry of the ministers a hymn may be sung.

The Greeting

The president says

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all

All **and also with you.**

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

The president may use the prayer of thanksgiving (see page 166).

Introduction

*The president may use these or other words.
(For seasonal Introductions, see pages 150–165.)*

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.
Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean.
Here we are clothed with Christ,
dying to sin that we may live his risen life.
As children of God, we have a new dignity
and God calls us to fullness of life.

The Gloria in excelsis may be used.

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.

*Either the Collect of the Day, or this Collect is said.
(For seasonal Collects, see pages 150–165.)*

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give 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.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

The readings of the day are normally used on Sundays, Principal Feasts, other Principal Holy Days and Festivals. For other occasions, see pages 150–165 and 167.

Either one or two readings from Scripture may precede the Gospel reading.

At the end of each the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The psalm or canticle follows the first reading; other hymns and songs may be used between the readings.

Gospel Reading

An acclamation may herald the Gospel reading.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Liturgy of Baptism

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 *these children/candidates*
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 *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

A large candle may be 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.

Where there are strong pastoral reasons, the alternative form of the Decision (page 168) may be used.

Signing with the Cross

The president or another minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, saying

Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

The president may invite parents, godparents and sponsors to sign the candidates with the cross. When all the candidates have 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.**

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.

All **Amen.**

Prayer over the Water

*The ministers and candidates gather at the baptismal font.
A canticle, psalm, hymn or litany may be used (see pages 169–176).*

*The president stands before the water of baptism and says
(optional seasonal and responsive forms are provided on
pages 150–165 and 177)*

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.**

Where there are strong pastoral reasons the alternative Profession of Faith (page 178) may be used.

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 or another minister 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 a minister may say

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

If those who have been baptized were not signed with the cross immediately after the Decision, the president signs each one now.

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

Either *Where the newly baptized are unable to answer for themselves, a 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, 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 *these children* in the way of faith.

One or more of the following prayers may be used

Faithful and loving God,
bless those who care for *these children*
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.

God of grace and life,
in your love you have given us
a place among your people;
keep us faithful to our baptism,
and prepare us for that glorious day
when the whole creation will be made perfect
in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

These words may be added

N and N,
today God has touched you with his love
and given you a place among his people.
God promises to be with you
in joy and in sorrow,
to be your guide in life,
and to bring you safely to heaven.
In baptism God invites you on a life-long journey.
Together with all God's people
you must explore the way of Jesus
and grow in friendship with God,
in love for his people,
and in serving others.
With us you will listen to the word of God
and receive the gifts of God.

or *Here or at the beginning of the Sending Out, 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Either here or after the Welcome and Peace, intercessions may be led by the president or others. These or other suitable words may be used. For seasonal forms and an alternative form, see pages 150–165 and 179. The intercession may conclude with a Collect.

As a royal priesthood, let us pray to the Father through Christ who ever lives to intercede for us.

Reveal your kingdom among the nations;
may peace abound and justice flourish.

Especially for ...

Your name be hallowed.

All Your kingdom come.

Send down upon us the gift of the Spirit
and renew your Church with power from on high.

Especially for ...

Your name be hallowed.

All Your kingdom come.

Deliver the oppressed, strengthen the weak,
heal and restore your creation.

Especially for ...

Your name be hallowed.

All Your kingdom come.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Church on earth,
we join our prayers with all the saints in glory.

Your name be hallowed.

All Your kingdom come.

The Welcome and Peace

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
N and 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.
(For seasonal Introductions to the Peace, see pages 150–165.)*

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.

If the Liturgy of the Eucharist does not follow immediately, the service continues with suitable prayers, ending with the Lord's Prayer and the Sending Out (page 77).

¶ The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Order for Celebration of Holy Communion continues with

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The Eucharistic Prayer

This short Proper Preface may be used

And now we give you thanks
because by water and the Holy Spirit
you have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord;
you raise us to new life in him
and renew in us the image of your glory.

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Giving of Communion

Prayer after Communion

*The authorized Post Communion of the Day,
or a seasonal Post Communion (see pages 150–165),
or the following is used*

Eternal God, our beginning and our end,
preserve in your people the new life of baptism;
as Christ receives us on earth,
so may he guide us through the trials of this world
and enfold us in the joy of heaven,
where you live and reign,
one God for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

¶ The Sending Out

*If the words on page 73 have not been used earlier, a minister may
address the newly baptized who are able to answer for themselves,
using those words.*

The Blessing

*The president may use a seasonal blessing (pages 150–165),
or another suitable blessing, or*

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.**

Giving of a Lighted Candle

*The president or another person may give each of the newly baptized
a lighted candle. These may be lit from the candle used at the Decision.*

When all the newly baptized have received a candle, the president says

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

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

The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

*From Easter Day to Pentecost Alleluia, alleluia may be added to both
the versicle and the response.*

Baptism within a Celebration of Holy Communion

The service for Holy Baptism provides for baptism in the context of the celebration of Holy Communion. The following notes aim to highlight the implication of this for baptism at a parish's regular Sunday celebration of Holy Communion.

- 1 The opening of the service should include an appropriate introduction and may include a prayer of thanksgiving for the child (page 166).
- 2 The Prayers of Penitence and the Nicene Creed are omitted.
- 3 The Presentation of the Candidates for Baptism takes place after the sermon. Alternatively it may form part of the opening section of the service; before the Gloria or Kyries (where these are used). If the presentation is used in this earlier position, it must precede the Collect.
- 4 Baptism takes place after the sermon.
- 5 An interrogatory version of the Apostles' Creed is provided in the text, to be said by the whole congregation. The Apostles' Creed is the normal baptismal creed in the Western tradition. A shorter Profession of Faith can be found at page 178.
- 6 The first form of the Commission is to be used at the baptism of children. The second form is to be used at the baptism of those able to answer for themselves.
- 7 A brief form of the Prayers of Intercession is provided. Longer and seasonal forms are to be found on pages 150–165. The Prayers may be placed before or after the Welcome. If the Prayers precede the Welcome and Peace, the Liturgy of the Eucharist then continues in the usual way with the Preparation of the Table and the Taking of the Bread and Wine.
- 8 A lighted candle is presented to the newly baptized as part of the conclusion of the service. It may be appropriate to invite the parents and godparents to the front at this point. The candle is lit from the Paschal candle (or other large candle) previously lit at the Decision.

The following table indicates how the service for Holy Baptism is to be used with the services indicated.

Order of Baptism	Order One	Order Two / BCP
[<i>Thanksgiving</i>] Introduction	After the Greeting [<i>omit Prayers of Penitence</i>]	After the Sermon
	Omit Nicene Creed	Omit Nicene Creed
Presentation	After the Greeting or Sermon	After the Introduction
Baptism	After the Sermon	After the Presentation
Prayers of Intercession	At the Intercessions [<i>omit Prayers of Penitence</i>]	Use Prayers of Intercession from Holy Baptism in place of Prayer for Church Militant
Welcome and Peace	At the Peace	Use the Welcome after the Commission
Prayer after Communion	After the Giving of Bread and Wine	Do not use
Giving of a Lighted Candle	Between the Blessing and Dismissal	After the Blessing

Baptism apart from a Celebration of Holy Communion

Structure

¶ Preparation

The Greeting
Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child
Introduction *
† *Presentation of the Candidates*
The Collect *

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Readings and Psalm
Gospel Reading
Sermon

¶ The Liturgy of Baptism

† Presentation of the Candidates
The Decision
Signing with the Cross
Prayer over the Water *
Profession of Faith *
Baptism
Commission
† *Prayers of Intercession* *
The Welcome and Peace *
† Prayers of Intercession *
The Lord's Prayer

¶ The Sending Out

The Blessing *
Giving of a Lighted Candle
The Dismissal

† *indicates alternative position allowed and shown indented in italics*

* *indicates alternative texts are provided*

Baptism apart from a Celebration of Holy Communion

¶ Preparation

At the entry of the ministers a hymn may be sung.

The Greeting

The president says

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all

All **and also with you.**

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

The president may use the prayer of thanksgiving (see page 166).

Introduction

*The president may use these or other words.
(For seasonal Introductions, see pages 150–165.)*

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.
Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean.
Here we are clothed with Christ,
dying to sin that we may live his risen life.
As children of God, we have a new dignity
and God calls us to fullness of life.

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.

*Either the Collect of the Day, or this Collect is said.
(For seasonal Collects, see pages 150–165.)*

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give 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.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

The readings of the day are normally used on Sundays, Principal Feasts, other Principal Holy Days and Festivals. For other occasions, see pages 150–165 and 167.

Either one or two readings from Scripture may precede the Gospel reading.

At the end of each the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The psalm or canticle follows the first reading; other hymns and songs may be used between the readings.

Gospel Reading

An acclamation may herald the Gospel reading.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Liturgy of Baptism

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 *these children/candidates*
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 *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

A large candle may be 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.

Where there are strong pastoral reasons, the alternative form of the Decision (page 168) may be used.

Signing with the Cross

The president or another minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, saying

Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

The president may invite parents, godparents and sponsors to sign the candidates with the cross. When all the candidates have 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.**

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.

All **Amen.**

Prayer over the Water

*The ministers and candidates gather at the baptismal font.
A canticle, psalm, hymn or litany may be used (see pages 169–176).*

*The president stands before the water of baptism and says
(optional seasonal and responsive forms are provided on
pages 150–165 and 177)*

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.**

Where there are strong pastoral reasons the alternative Profession of Faith (page 178) may be used.

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 or another minister 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 a minister may say

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

If those who have been baptized were not signed with the cross immediately after the Decision, the president signs each one now.

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

Either *Where the newly baptized are unable to answer for themselves, a 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, 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 *these children* in the way of faith.

One or more of the following prayers may be used

Faithful and loving God,
bless those who care for *these children*
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.

God of grace and life,
in your love you have given us
a place among your people;
keep us faithful to our baptism,
and prepare us for that glorious day
when the whole creation will be made perfect
in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

These words may be added

N and N,
today God has touched you with his love
and given you a place among his people.
God promises to be with you
in joy and in sorrow,
to be your guide in life,
and to bring you safely to heaven.
In baptism God invites you on a life-long journey.
Together with all God's people
you must explore the way of Jesus
and grow in friendship with God,
in love for his people,
and in serving others.
With us you will listen to the word of God
and receive the gifts of God.

or *Here or at the beginning of the Sending Out, 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 and 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.
(For seasonal Introductions to the Peace, see pages 150–165.)*

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.

¶ Prayers of Intercession

Intercessions may be led by the president or others. These or other suitable words may be used. For seasonal forms and an alternative form, see pages 150–165 and 179. The intercession concludes with the Lord's Prayer.

As a royal priesthood, let us pray to the Father
through Christ who ever lives to intercede for us.

Reveal your kingdom among the nations;
may peace abound and justice flourish.

Especially for ...

Your name be hallowed.

All Your kingdom come.

Send down upon us the gift of the Spirit
and renew your Church with power from on high.

Especially for ...

Your name be hallowed.

All Your kingdom come.

Deliver the oppressed, strengthen the weak,
heal and restore your creation.

Especially for ...

Your name be hallowed.

All Your kingdom come.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Church on earth,
we join our prayers with all the saints in glory.

Your name be hallowed.

All Your kingdom come.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

(or)

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

¶ The Sending Out

If the words on page 73 have not been used earlier, a minister may address the newly baptized who are able to answer for themselves, using those words.

The Blessing

The president may use a seasonal blessing (pages 150–165), or another suitable blessing, or

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.**

Giving of a Lighted Candle

The president or another person may give each of the newly baptized a lighted candle. These may be lit from the candle used at the Decision.

When all the newly baptized have received a candle, the president says

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

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

The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

From Easter Day to Pentecost Alleluia, alleluia may be added to both the versicle and the response.

Baptism at a Service of the Word

Any minister may preside over A Service of the Word, the Prayers and the Commission. The minister of baptism, who is the parish priest or other minister authorized to administer Holy Baptism, must preside over the Liturgy of Baptism.

Where alternative forms are provided in the service for Holy Baptism, they may be used with A Service of the Word.

- 1 The Prayers of Penitence are not used.
- 2 The Creed or Affirmation of Faith is replaced by the Profession of Faith.
- 3 The following may be used as part of the Preparation or after the Liturgy of the Word:
 - Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child (page 166)
 - Introduction (page 63)
 - Presentation of the Candidates (page 66).
- 4 After the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of Baptism (pages 66–75) follows, omitting the Presentation of the Candidates (page 66), if used earlier, and the Prayers of Intercession (page 74), if they are to be used later.
- 5 The Prayers of Intercession may be used before or after the Welcome or later in the service.
- 6 The Giving of a Lighted Candle takes place at the conclusion of the service. Alternatively it may take place after the administration of baptism.

The Notes to the service for Holy Baptism (pages 98–101) apply to the Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child, the Liturgy of Baptism and the Giving of a Lighted Candle.

Baptism at Morning or Evening Prayer

When appropriate, the service of Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer may be abbreviated. The Prayers of Penitence may be omitted, and the Creed is omitted, being replaced by one of the interrogatory forms provided in the service for Holy Baptism.

The service follows this order:

- ¶ The introduction to the service. This may include
 - Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child (page 166)
 - Introduction (page 63)
 - Presentation of the Candidates (page 66)
- ¶ Morning or Evening Prayer to the end of the second reading
- ¶ The Liturgy of Baptism (pages 66–75) omitting the Presentation of the Candidates (page 66), if used earlier, and the Prayers of Intercession (page 74). The Peace may also be omitted.
- ¶ Morning or Evening Prayer from the canticle after the second reading, omitting the Apostles' Creed
- ¶ At the prayers, appropriate intercessions from the service for Holy Baptism may be used (see pages 74, 150–165 and 179).
- ¶ The service concludes with the Sending Out (page 77).

The Notes to the service for Holy Baptism (pages 98–101) apply to the Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child, the Liturgy of Baptism and the Sending Out.

Notes to Holy Baptism

Holy Baptism is normally administered by the parish priest in the course of public worship on Sunday 'when the most number of people come together' (Canon B 21).

1 Minister of Baptism

Where rubrics speak of 'the president', this indicates the parish priest or other minister authorized to administer Holy Baptism. When the bishop is present he normally presides over the whole service. Parts of the service not assigned to the president may be delegated to others.

2 Ordering of the Service

Pages 60–61, 63–67 and 78–79 show how baptism is to be administered within a celebration of Holy Communion. Pages 96–97 show how it is to be administered at A Service of the Word and at Morning or Evening Prayer. When baptism is administered within a celebration of Holy Communion, the Notes to the Order for the Celebration of Holy Communion apply equally to this service. The structure of the service, however, enables it to be used as a significant celebration on its own and there may be occasions where such a celebration of Holy Baptism forms a main Sunday act of worship. Whenever Holy Baptism is administered there shall be a sermon.

3 Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child

This option (see page 166) may be used where it is appropriate to express thanksgiving for a child to be baptized later in the service; this may be inserted as part of the Preparation. This is not intended to preclude the use of a separate service of Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child.

4 Presentation of the Candidates

The Presentation may follow the Introduction where circumstances make this appropriate.

5 Collect, Readings and Other Variable Texts

The Collect and readings for the Sunday should normally be used, especially on Sundays between the First Sunday of Advent and the Feast of the Presentation of Christ, and between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday. The Collects provided in the rite and its Supplementary Texts may, however, be substituted on Sundays between the Presentation of Christ and the beginning of Lent and between Trinity Sunday and the beginning of Advent even when the normal Sunday readings are used. The Collects and readings provided in the service or in its Supplementary Texts are for use on occasions when baptism is the predominant element in the service. The basic form of the service remains constant. Within this structure seasonal material may also be used (see pages 150–165). This is linked to occasions in the Christian year when its use might be particularly appropriate.

6 Godparents and Sponsors

The term 'godparent' is used for those asked to present children for baptism and to continue to support them. The term 'sponsor' is used for those who agree to support in the journey of faith candidates (of any age) for baptism, confirmation or affirmation of baptismal faith. It is not necessary that a candidate have the same person as godparent and sponsor. When children who are old enough to speak are baptized, such children, at the discretion of the parish priest, also answer the questions at the Decision with parents and godparents.

7 Hymns and Silence

If occasion requires, hymns may be sung and silence may be kept at points other than those which are indicated.

8 Corporate Responses

When members of a family are baptized at the same time, the questions at the Decision may be answered in the form 'We reject ...'.

9 Profession of Faith

The whole congregation joins in the Apostles' Creed at the Profession of Faith or makes the responses in the Alternative Profession of Faith (page 178).

10 Use of Oil

Where it has been agreed that oil will be used, pure olive oil, reflecting the practice of athletes preparing for a contest, may be used for the Signing with the Cross. Oil mixed with fragrant spices (traditionally called chrism), expressing the blessings of the messianic era and the richness of the Holy Spirit, may be used to accompany the prayer after the baptism. It is appropriate that the oil should have been consecrated by the bishop.

11 Signing with the Cross

At the Signing with the Cross, after the president or other minister has made the sign using the words provided, parents, godparents and sponsors may also be invited to make the sign of the cross. It is sufficient if the people join in and say their part once only, when all the candidates have been signed. The possibility of signing with the cross at the prayer after the baptism is provided for, but if this is done it should be accompanied by the text provided at that point in the rite, not the text provided for the Signing with the Cross after the Decision. If signing takes place after the baptism, it must follow the administration of water as a separate action.

12 Administration of Water

A threefold administration of water (whether by dipping or pouring) is a very ancient practice of the Church and is commended as testifying to the faith of the Trinity in which candidates are baptized. Nevertheless, a single administration is also lawful and valid. The use of a substantial amount of water is desirable; water must at least flow on the skin of the candidate. The president may delegate the act of baptism to another lawful minister.

13 Conditional Baptism

If it is not certain whether a person has already been baptized with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, then the usual service of baptism is used, but the form of words at the baptism shall be

N, if you have not already been baptized, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

14 Clothing

Provision is made for clothing after the baptism. This may be a practical necessity where dipping is the mode of baptism employed; the text provided draws on ancient tradition, linking practical necessity and scriptural imagery.

15 Commission

The text provided should normally be used; however, it may be paraphrased by the minister if pastoral circumstances require. Alternatively its contents may be included in the sermon. If the newly baptized are able to answer for themselves, the Commission may be deferred until the beginning of the Sending Out.

16 Prayers of Intercession

General intercession should normally be part of the service. Such prayers draw the newly baptized into the praying Church of which they are now a part. It may be appropriate for the newly baptized to introduce sections of these prayers. Prayers in responsive form are provided; one of the forms of prayer on pages 150–165 and 179 may be used. The Prayers may be used after the Welcome and Peace.

17 Giving of a Lighted Candle

The Paschal candle or another large candle is made ready so that it may be lit at the Decision. Individual candles may be lit from it and given to candidates as part of the Sending Out. The giving of lighted candles may take place at an earlier stage in the service, after the administration of baptism.

18 Renewal of Baptismal Vows

When the Renewal of Baptismal Vows takes place within a service of Holy Baptism and/or Confirmation, the responses of the people may follow the responses of the candidates, for example:

Do you reject ... ?

Candidates **I reject ...**

All **I reject ...**

or the people may make the responses with the candidates.