

Holy Baptism and Confirmation

Structure

Optional parts of the service are indicated by square brackets.

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Baptism and Confirmation within a Celebration of Holy Communion

The Collect

¶ Preparation

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

The Greeting

The bishop greets the people, using these or other suitable words

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

From Easter Day to Pentecost this acclamation follows

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

There is one body and one spirit.

All **There is one hope to which we were called;**

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

All **one God and Father of all.**

Peace be with you

All **and also with you.**

The bishop may introduce the service.

The Gloria in excelsis may be used.

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

The Collect of the Day is normally used on Sundays, Principal Feasts, other Principal Holy Days and Festivals. On other occasions a seasonal collect (pages 150–165) or this Collect is used

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 Initiation

Presentation of the Candidates

The candidates may be presented to the congregation. Where appropriate, they may be presented by their godparents or sponsors. If there are infants for baptism, the direction in Note I (page 128) is followed.

The bishop asks those who are candidates for baptism

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

The bishop asks the candidates for confirmation who have been baptized (together with those who wish to affirm their baptismal faith and/or those who are to be received into the communion of the Church of England)

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

I have.

The bishop asks all the candidates

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

I am.

Testimony by the candidates may follow.

The bishop 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 candidates* and uphold *them* in *their* life in Christ?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

If children are to be baptized, the questions to parents and godparents in the service of Holy Baptism (page 66) are used.

The Decision

A large candle may be lit. The bishop addresses all the candidates

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 bishop or another minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for baptism, saying

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

The bishop may invite their sponsors to sign the candidates with the sign of the cross. When all the candidates for baptism have been signed, the bishop says to them

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.**

Or, when there are no candidates for baptism, he may say

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ,
give you the strength to continue in the Way.

All **Amen.**

Prayer over the Water

The ministers and candidates for baptism, together with candidates for confirmation, affirmation of baptismal faith and reception into the communion of the Church of England, gather at the baptismal font. A canticle, psalm, hymn or litany may be used (see pages 169–176).

When there are candidates for baptism, the bishop stands before the water of baptism and says (optional seasonal and responsive forms are provided on pages 150–165 and 177)

All Praise God who made heaven and earth,
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 bishop 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.**

Baptism

The bishop may address each candidate for baptism by name, saying
N, is this your faith?

and candidates answer in their own words, or

This is my faith.

*The bishop 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 bishop signs each one now.*

The bishop 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.**

*If there are candidates for affirmation of baptismal faith the Declaration
on page 203 is used.*

*If there are candidates for reception into the communion of the Church
of England, the Declaration on page 217 is used.*

*The candidates for confirmation who have previously been baptized
(together with those affirming their baptismal faith or seeking reception)
may come forward to the font and sign themselves with water, or the
bishop may sprinkle them.*

Then the bishop says

Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptized into your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

Confirmation

*The bishop and candidates gather at the place of confirmation.
A hymn, chant or litany may be used.*

The bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed and says

Our help is in the name of the Lord
All who has made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord
All now and for ever. Amen.

The bishop extends his hands towards those to be confirmed and says

Almighty and ever-living God,
you have given these your servants new birth
in baptism by water and the Spirit,
and have forgiven them all their sins.
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.

All Amen.

The bishop addresses each candidate by name

N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

He then lays his hand on the head of each, saying

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

Affirmation of Baptismal Faith and Reception into the Communion of the Church of England

*If there are candidates for affirmation of baptismal faith, the provision
on page 204 is used.*

*If there are candidates for reception into the communion of the Church
of England, the provision on page 218 is used.*

*The bishop invites the congregation to pray for all those on whom hands
have been laid*

**All Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace,
that they may continue yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more
until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.**

Commission

*The bishop may use this Commission here or at the beginning of the
Sending Out.*

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 hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

The Prayers of Intercession may follow. It is appropriate that the newly baptized and confirmed take their part in leading the prayers. The prayers provided in the service of Holy Baptism may be used (see page 74). For seasonal forms and an alternative form, see pages 150–165 and 179.

If the Liturgy of the Eucharist does not follow immediately, the Prayers of Intercession may follow the Welcome and Peace (see also pages 126–127).

The Welcome and Peace

The bishop may address the newly baptized

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 in the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

The congregation may greet the newly baptized.

*The bishop introduces the Peace in these or other suitable words.
(For seasonal Introductions to the Peace, see pages 150–165.)*

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us
and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

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 concludes with suitable prayers (see above), ending with the Lord's Prayer and the Sending Out (pages 122–123).

¶ 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 is normally used on Sundays, Principal Feasts, other Principal Holy Days and Festivals. On other occasions a seasonal Post Communion (see pages 150–165), or the following is used

God of mercy,
by whose grace alone we are accepted
and equipped for your service:
stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Sending Out

If it has not been used earlier, the bishop may use the Commission (page 119).

The Blessing

The bishop 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 upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Giving of a Lighted Candle

A hymn may be sung.

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

When all have received a candle, the bishop 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.

The bishop may lead the newly baptized and confirmed through the church.

Confirmation within a Celebration of Holy Communion

If there are no candidates for Baptism, the following amendments are made to the service:

¶ The following is omitted from the Presentation of the Candidates (page 111):

The bishop asks those who are candidates for baptism

Do you wish to be baptized?
I do.

¶ At the end of the Decision (page 112), the following may be added:

The bishop says

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ,
give you also strength to continue in the Way.

All **Amen.**

¶ The Signing with the Cross (page 113) is omitted.

¶ On arrival at the font, the bishop may say the following prayer:

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God of all,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
You are our light and our salvation.
From the deep waters of death
you have raised your Son to life in triumph.
Grant that all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit,
may daily be renewed in your image,
walk by the light of faith,
and serve you in newness of life;
through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
we lift our voices of praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

¶ The following are omitted:

Prayer over the Water (page 114)

Baptism (page 116)

Welcome (page 120)

Baptism and Confirmation apart from a Celebration of Holy Communion

If the Liturgy of the Eucharist does not follow immediately, the service continues with the Prayers of Intercession (unless they have been used before the Welcome and Peace).

One or more of the following prayers may be used at the Prayers of Intercession

(by the bishop)

Heavenly Father, we pray for *these your servants* upon whom we have now laid our hands after the example of the apostles.

Assure *them* by this sign of your favour towards *them*;
may your fatherly hand ever be over *them*,
your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*;
strengthen *them* continually with the Body and Blood of your Son,
and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your word,
that *they* may ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Almighty God,
whose Holy Spirit equips the Church with a rich variety of gifts,
grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ
by lives built on faith and love.
Make us ready to live his gospel and eager to do his will,
that we may share with all your Church in the joys of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All **Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, let there be pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
for your mercy and for your truth's sake. Amen.**

All **Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits that you have won for us,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.
Most merciful redeemer,
friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day. Amen.**

All **Eternal God,
you have declared in Christ
the completion of your purpose of love.
May we live by faith, walk in hope,
and be renewed in love,
until the world reflects your glory,
and you are all in all.
Even so; come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Then all say the Lord's Prayer (page 94).

The service concludes with the Sending Out.

Notes

1 Ordering of the service

The service is presided over by the bishop and the parts reserved to the bishop are indicated. All other parts may be delegated. This may include delegating the administration of the water of baptism to another lawful minister.

When baptism and confirmation are administered within a celebration of Holy Communion, the Notes to the Order for the Celebration of Holy Communion apply equally to this service.

The ordering of the service should take into account the arrangement of the building and its furnishings and the most appropriate way of involving those present. The places where baptism and confirmation are administered should be determined after consultation between the bishop and the parish priest. Nevertheless, wherever possible all candidates should make the profession of baptismal faith (even when there are no candidates for baptism) at the place of baptism, the font.

Provision is made for the baptism of those not able to answer for themselves. When these are children baptized at the same time as their parents, it is fitting that they are baptized immediately after their own parents. When members of a family are baptized at the same time, the questions at the Decision may be answered in the form 'We reject ...'

For the ordering of the service when there are no candidates for baptism, see pages 124–125. For baptism and confirmation apart from a celebration of Holy Communion, see pages 126–127.

2 Affirmation of Baptismal Faith

The provision for Affirmation of Baptismal Faith is intended for those who are already baptized and confirmed and who, after preparation and instruction, come to make a public act of commitment. It is not intended for use when an entire congregation renews its baptismal vows, for which separate provision is made (see pages 193–196).

3 Testimony

If candidates are to give testimony after the Presentation, it is important that this should be appropriate in length and style and not detract from the rest of the service. The bishop may, at his discretion, allow for testimony to be made at an earlier point in the service before the sermon. Testimony may be given in written form.

4 Hymns and silence

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

5 Collect, readings and other variable texts

The collects, readings and variable prayers provided in the rite and its appendices are intended for use when the service does not form the usual Sunday service. Where baptism, confirmation, affirmation and reception take place in a usual Sunday service, the Collect and readings for the Sunday should normally be used, especially on Sundays between the First Sunday of Advent and the Presentation of Christ, and between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday.

6 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 confirmation and/or affirmation. Use of chrism at the prayer after baptism is not appropriate if confirmation follows immediately. It is appropriate that the oil should have been consecrated by the bishop.

7 Signing with the Cross

At the Signing with the Cross, after the bishop or other minister has made the sign using the words provided, 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 baptism is provided for, but if this is done it should be accompanied by the text provided at that part of the service, 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 act.

8 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.**

9 Profession of Faith

The whole congregation joins in the Apostles' Creed at the Profession of Faith.

10 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.

11 Commission

If the Commission is to be used, it may be deferred until the beginning of the Sending Out.

12 Prayers of Intercession

The forms of prayer provided in the service for Holy Baptism may be used for the Prayers of Intercession.

13 The Blessing

The Blessing may be preceded by the following:

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

All **who has made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord,

All **now and for ever. Amen.**

14 Giving of a Lighted Candle

The Paschal candle, or another large candle, may be lit at the Decision and individual candles may be lit from it and given to candidates, including the newly confirmed, as part of the Sending Out. The giving of lighted candles to the newly baptized may take place at an earlier stage in the rite after the administration of baptism, in which case candles are not given to the newly confirmed.