

Celebration of Baptism and Confirmation within a Vigil Service

An Outline Order

Using the Seasonal Provisions (pages 150–165), this order is suitable for a Vigil service on the Eve of the Baptism of Christ, of Pentecost, or of All Saints' Day, or on Saturday evenings in Epiphany, in Eastertide, or in the period from All Saints' Day to Advent Sunday.

† The Service of Light

Responsory or short reading (Isaiah 43.1-3a) in the darkness
Chant (with reading of Genesis 1.1-3)
Acclamation at the blessing of the light *
Hymn (lighting of candles and entrance of ministers)
† Greeting and Introduction
† Presentation of the Candidates
† Collect *

† The Decision

Short Reading * (e.g. Acts 2.38-39, Romans 13.11-12, 1 Peter 2.9-10)
† Decision
† Signing with the Cross

† Baptism

Hymn (and procession to the place of Baptism)
New Testament Reading *
† Prayer over the Water *
† Profession of Faith
† Baptism (including post-baptismal prayers, and signing/sprinkling with water of those already baptized)

† Confirmation

Hymn (and procession to the place of Confirmation)
Gospel Acclamation and Gospel *
† Confirmation
† Welcome and Peace
Hymn

† The Prayers and Sending Out

Intercessions and concluding Collect *
Lord's Prayer
† Blessing *
Hymn (and lighting of candles)
† Giving of a Lighted Candle
† Dismissal

† *indicates a section of the Service of Baptism and Confirmation within a Celebration of Holy Communion (pages 108–123).*

* *indicates material for which seasonal resources are provided (see pages 150–165).*

Either a series of short homilies may be preached – one after the Short Reading and before the Decision; one after the New Testament Reading and before the Prayer over the Water; one after the Gospel and before the Confirmation – or a sermon may be preached after the Gospel.

Celebration of Baptism and Confirmation within a Vigil Service on the Eve of Pentecost

Notes

1 Seasonal variations

Using the relevant Seasonal Provisions (pages 150–165), this service may appropriately be celebrated on the Eve of the Baptism of Christ or on Saturdays in Epiphany, on Saturdays in Eastertide, and on the Eve of All Saints' Day or on Saturdays between All Saints' Day and Advent Sunday.

2 Holy Baptism and Confirmation

The Notes to Holy Baptism and Confirmation (pages 128–131) apply equally to this service.

3 Ministries

The bishop presides over the whole service, but may share with other ministers or delegate to them the Signing with the Cross. He may delegate the administration of the water of baptism to another lawful minister.

The deacon lights the large candle, says the Blessing of the Light and proclaims the Gospel.

Where there are a large number of candidates, the Bishop may invite suffragan or other assistant bishops to join him in laying on hands. In this case candidates come before each of the confirming bishops, who address each of them by name and may anoint them. The bishops then lay hands on the candidates before each of them, praying 'Confirm, O Lord, ...' together.

4 The Sermon

Either a series of short homilies may be preached – one after the Short Reading and before the Decision; one after the New Testament Reading and before the Prayer over the Water; and one after the Gospel and before the Confirmation – or a sermon may be preached after the Gospel.

5 Prayer of Intercession

In the Prayers of Intercession, the biddings are appropriately read by one of the newly baptized or confirmed. The Post Communion may be used to conclude the Prayers of Intercession.

Celebration of Baptism and Confirmation within a Vigil Service on the Eve of Pentecost

Before the service, silence is kept.

¶ The Service of Light

In the darkness this prophecy may be read

Isaiah 43.1-3a,6b,7

or this responsory may be used

Fear not, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name; you are mine.

All **Fear not, for I have redeemed you.**

I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned.

All **I have called you by name; you are mine.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

All **Fear not, for I have redeemed you.**

I have called you by name; you are mine.

from Isaiah 43

Blessing of the Light

During the chant Veni, Sancte Spiritus or some other (which is unaccompanied), these verses are read and a large candle is lit

Genesis 1.1-3

Deacon Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
All **who is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.**

Deacon Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
Raised to your right hand on high
the ascended Christ shows the prints of love
and bestows on us the gifts of grace.
As your Spirit renews the face of the earth,
may we bring forth the fruits of the Spirit
and reveal your glory in all the world.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The lights are lit, and the bishop's procession enters as a hymn is sung.

The Greeting

Bishop Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All **Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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 welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.

Presentation of the Candidates

The sponsors present the candidates for baptism and confirmation, saying

I present N to be (baptized and) confirmed.

The bishop asks those who are candidates for baptism

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

The bishop asks those who are candidates for confirmation

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.

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.**

The Collect

Bishop Let us pray.

A short period of silence is kept.

Bishop God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Decision

Short Reading

Acts 2.38,39

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Decision

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.

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.**

Baptism

The bishop leads the candidates to the font, as a hymn is sung.

New Testament Reading

Romans 8.1-11 or Galatians 5.22 – 6.2

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer over the Water

The bishop stands before the water of baptism and says

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.**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ
was baptized in the river Jordan:
we thank you for the gift of water
to cleanse us and revive us.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery
to freedom in the Promised Land.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death
you brought your Son,
and raised him to life in triumph.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it
may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection,
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them,
bring them to new birth in the household of faith,
and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,
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 addresses 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 pours water on each candidate three times, saying

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

All **Amen.**

When all have been baptized, 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.**

The candidates for confirmation who have previously been baptized may come forward to the font and sign themselves with water, or the bishop may sprinkle them, after which the bishop invites the congregation to join him in praying

All **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. Amen.**

During the singing of a hymn, the bishop leads the candidates to the place of Confirmation.

Gospel Reading

The congregation remains standing.

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia.
Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

All **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

The deacon reads the Gospel

John 7.37-39 or John 14.5-18

At the end the deacon says

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Confirmation

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.**

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.**

The Peace

Bishop 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.

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

¶ The Prayers and Sending Out

Prayers of Intercession

The bishop says to the newly baptized and confirmed

You now share, with all the members of the Church, the privilege of praying to our Father, through his Son Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Intercessor Reveal your kingdom among the nations;
as we pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world,
may peace abound and justice flourish.

A period of silence is kept.

Your name be hallowed.
All **Your kingdom come.**

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

A period of silence is kept.

Your name be hallowed.
All **Your kingdom come.**

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

A period of silence is kept.

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.

A period of silence is kept.

Your name be hallowed.
All **Your kingdom come.**

The bishop concludes the intercessions with this collect

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 Lord's Prayer

Raised again with Christ, in the power of the Spirit, 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)

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 Blessing

Bishop God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you by his life-giving Spirit to walk with him in the paths of righteousness and peace; 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 is sung, during which ministers give a lighted candle to each of those who have been baptized and confirmed.

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

Deacon Go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The bishop leads the newly baptized and confirmed through the church.