

Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

Notes

- I This service is provided for a number of different occasions:
 - ¶ the private celebration of a birth or adoption, at home or in church with only family and close friends present;
 - ¶ the public celebration of the birth or adoption of a number of children, perhaps in church on a Sunday afternoon;
 - ¶ the public celebration of the birth or adoption of a number of children as part of a main Sunday act of worship.

It is designed to meet the needs of:

 - ¶ parents who see this as a preliminary to baptism;
 - ¶ parents who do not wish their children to be baptized immediately;
 - ¶ others, who do not ask for baptism, but who recognize that something has happened for which they wish to give thanks to God.
- 2 In preparing for the service, the minister should consult the Notes and Supplementary Texts to the service of Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child in *Common Worship: Pastoral Services*. The Supplementary Texts include liturgical greetings, a list of suitable readings and additional prayers.

¶ Pastoral Introduction

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

The birth or adoption of a child is a cause for celebration. Many people are overcome by a sense of awe at the creation of new life and want to express their thanks to God. This service provides an opportunity for parents and families to give thanks for the birth or adoption of a child and to pray for family life. It may be a private celebration at home or in hospital, or it may be a public celebration in church, sometimes with a number of children.

This service is not the same as Baptism (sometimes called Christening), which is the sacrament of initiation into membership of the Church, the Body of Christ. If you are interested in exploring the Christian faith, or finding out more about preparation for Baptism, ask the minister taking this service.

Structure

- ¶ Introduction
- ¶ Reading(s) and Sermon
- ¶ Thanksgiving and Blessing
- ¶ Giving of the Gospel
- ¶ Prayers
- ¶ Ending

Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

Introduction

The minister welcomes the people using a liturgical greeting or other suitable words (see Note 2).

A hymn or song may be sung.

The service may be introduced in these or similar words

We are here today to give thanks for *these children*, with *their* family and friends, and to support *their* parents in their responsibilities with prayer and love. God became one of us in Jesus, and understands all that surrounds the arrival and upbringing of children. It is God's purpose that children should know love within the stability of their home, grow in faith, and come at last to the eternal city where his love reigns supreme.

The following may be used

The works of the Lord are great:

All **his mercy endures for ever.**

Mary gave birth to a child and called him Jesus:

All **he will save his people from their sins.**

He will be called the Prince of Peace:

All **his kingdom will last for ever.**

The minister says

Loving God,
you hold all things in life
and call us into your kingdom of peace;
help us to walk the path of your truth
and fill our lives with gratitude and faith,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Reading(s) and Sermon

A suitable passage from the Bible is read (see Note 2).

A sermon may be preached.

A hymn may be sung.

Thanksgiving and Blessing

Where parents wish to recognize the role of supporting friends it may be appropriate for them to stand with the parents at the thanksgiving. One of them may present the children to the minister, and informal words may be said.

The minister says

Do you receive *these children* as a gift from God?

We do.

Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek his blessing?

We do.

The minister says

God our creator,
we thank you for the wonder of new life
and for the mystery of human love.
We thank you for all whose support and skill
surround and sustain the beginning of life.
We thank you that we are known to you by name
and loved by you from all eternity.
We thank you for Jesus Christ,
who has opened to us the way of love.
We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The minister may say for each child

What name have you given this child?

A parent or supporting friend replies

His/her name is N.

The minister may take the child.

The minister says

As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them,
so now we ask God's blessing on N.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for *his/her* birth;
surround *him/her* with your blessing
that *he/she* may know your love,
be protected from evil,
and know your goodness all *his/her* days.

When all the children have been prayed for

**All May they learn to love all that is true,
grow in wisdom and strength
and, in due time, come through faith and baptism
to the fullness of your grace;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

The minister prays for the parents

May God the Father of all bless *these parents*
and give *them* grace to love and care for *their children*.
May God give *them* wisdom, patience and faith,
help *them* to provide for the *children's* needs
and, by *their* example,
reveal the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

Giving of the Gospel

A copy of a Gospel is presented, with these words

Receive this book.
It is the good news of God's love.
Take it as your guide.

The minister may address the supporting friends and say

Will you do all that you can to help and support N and N
in the bringing up of N?

With the help of God, we will.

The minister may address the wider family and friends and say

Will you do all that you can to help and support *this family*?
With the help of God, we will.

Prayers

This prayer may be said by the parents or by the whole congregation

**God our creator,
we thank you for the gift of these children,
entrusted to our care.
May we be patient and understanding,
ready to guide and to forgive,
so that through our love
they may come to know your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

*The minister may say additional prayers (see Note 2),
ending with the Lord's Prayer.*

Jesus taught us to call God our Father,
and so in faith and trust we say

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)

Jesus taught us to call God our Father,
and so we have the courage to say

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.**

Ending

The minister says one of these or another suitable blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus
draw *you* to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen *you* in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill *your* hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among *you* and remain with *you* always.

All **Amen.**

(or)

The Lord bless *you* and watch over *you*,
the Lord make his face shine upon *you*
and be gracious to *you*,
the Lord look kindly on *you* and give *you* peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among *you* and remain with *you* always.

All **Amen.**

Holy Baptism

Notes

- 1 In preparing for the service, the minister should consult the full Notes and Supplementary Texts to the service of Holy Baptism in *Common Worship: Initiation Services* and the President's edition of *Common Worship*. The Supplementary Texts include the Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child and seasonal texts for the Introduction, Collect, Peace, Prayers of Intercession, Prayer after Communion and Blessing.
- 2 When the Renewal of Baptismal Vows takes place within a service of Holy Baptism and/or Confirmation, the responses of the people follow the responses of the candidates, for example:

Do you reject ...?

Candidates **I reject ...**

All **I reject ...**

¶ 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, as Jesus was at his 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 within 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 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*

Holy Baptism apart from a Celebration of Holy Communion

Structure

¶ Preparation

The Greeting
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Introduction *
† *Presentation of the Candidates*
The Collect *

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Readings and Psalm
Gospel Reading
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¶ The Liturgy of Baptism

† Presentation of the Candidates
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Prayer over the Water *
Profession of Faith *
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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*

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 Note 1, page 344).*

Introduction

The president may use these or other words

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

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.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

The readings of the day are normally used on Sundays and Principal Festivals.

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

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 372) 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 page 370).*

*The president stands before the water of baptism and says
(optional seasonal and responsive forms are provided on
pages 364–369)*

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 373) 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 *To the newly baptized who are able to answer for themselves, a minister may say*

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. 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

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 363).

¶ 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 form, 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

The Blessing

*The president may use a seasonal blessing, 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

*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.*

Supplementary Texts

¶ Responsive Form of the Prayer over the Water

The refrain **Lord of life, renew your creation** may be said or sung by all.

The first phrase **Lord of life** (italicized) may be said or sung by a deacon or other minister.

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.

All **Lord of life,
renew your creation.**

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.

All **Lord of life,
renew your creation.**

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. Amen.

All **Lord of life,
renew your creation.**

¶ Seasonal Prayers over the Water

The headings (Epiphany/Baptism of Christ/Trinity, Easter/Pentecost and All Saints) indicate the seasonal emphases of the material. However, these texts may be used on any occasion to meet pastoral circumstances.

Epiphany/Baptism of Christ/Trinity

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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise
for your gift of water in creation;
for your Spirit, sweeping over the waters,
bringing light and life;
for your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
baptized in the river Jordan.

We bless you for your new creation,
brought to birth by water and the Spirit,
and for your grace bestowed upon us your children,
washing away our sins.

May your holy and life-giving Spirit
move upon these waters.

Restore through them the beauty of your creation,
and bring those who are baptized
to new birth in the family of your Church.

Drown sin in the waters of judgement,
anoint your children with power from on high,
and make them one with Christ
in the freedom of your kingdom.

For all might, majesty, dominion and power are yours,
now and for ever.

All **Alleluia. Amen.**

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.**

Father, for your gift of water in creation,
All **we give you thanks and praise.**

For your Spirit, sweeping over the waters,
bringing light and life,
All **we give you thanks and praise.**

For your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
baptized in the river Jordan,
All **we give you thanks and praise.**

For your new creation,
brought to birth by water and the Spirit,
All **we give you thanks and praise.**

For your grace bestowed upon us your children,
washing away our sins,
All **we give you thanks and praise.**

Father, accept our sacrifice of praise;
may your holy and life-giving Spirit
move upon these waters.
All **Lord, receive our prayer.**

Restore through them the beauty of your creation,
and bring those who are baptized
to new birth in the family of your Church.
All **Lord, receive our prayer.**

Drown sin in the waters of judgement,
anoint your children with power from on high,
and make them one with Christ
in the freedom of your kingdom.
All **Lord, receive our prayer.**

For all might, majesty, dominion and power are yours,
now and for ever.
All **Alleluia. Amen.**

*The bracketed refrain **Saving God, give us life** is optional.
If it is used, it may be said or sung by all.
The first phrase **Saving God** (italicized) may be said or sung
by a deacon or other minister.*

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.**

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.
All **[Saving God,
give us life.]**

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery
to freedom in the Promised Land.
All **[Saving God,
give us life.]**

We thank you that through the deep waters of death
you brought your Son,
and raised him to life in triumph.
All **[Saving God,
give us life.]**

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.
All **[Saving God,
give us life.]**

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. Amen.
All **[Saving God,
give us life.]**

All Saints

*The bracketed refrain **Hope of the saints, make known your glory** is optional. If it is used, it may be said or sung.*

*The first phrase **Hope of the saints** (italicized) may be said or sung by a deacon or other minister.*

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.**

Lord of the heavens,
we bless your name for all your servants
who have been a sign of your grace through the ages.
All [**Hope of the saints,**
make known your glory.]

You delivered Noah from the waters of destruction;
you divided the waters of the sea,
and by the hand of Moses
you led your people from slavery
into the Promised Land.
All [**Hope of the saints,**
make known your glory.]

You made a new covenant in the blood of your Son,
that all who confess his name
may, by the Holy Spirit,
enter the covenant of grace,
receive a pledge of the kingdom of heaven,
and share in the divine nature.
All [**Hope of the saints,**
make known your glory.]

Fill these waters, we pray, with the power of that same Spirit,
that all who enter them may be reborn
and rise from the grave
to new life in Christ.

All [**Hope of the saints,**
make known your glory.]

As the apostles and prophets, the confessors and martyrs,
faithfully served you in their generation,
may we be built into an eternal dwelling for you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

All [**Hope of the saints,**
make known your glory.]

¶ *A Litany of the Resurrection*

which may be used in Procession to the Baptismal Font

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious:
All and his mercy endures for ever.

He has loved us from all eternity:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

And remembered us when we were in trouble:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

He became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

By his cross and passion he has redeemed the world:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

And has washed us from our sins in his own blood:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

On the third day he rose again:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

And has given us the victory:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

He ascended into heaven:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

And opened wide for us the everlasting doors:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

He is seated at the right hand of the Father:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

And ever lives to make intercession for us:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever.
Amen.**

For the gift of his Spirit:
All blessed be Christ.

For the catholic Church:
All blessed be Christ.

For the means of grace:
All blessed be Christ.

For the hope of glory:
All blessed be Christ.

For the triumphs of his gospel:
All blessed be Christ.

For the lives of his saints:
All blessed be Christ.

In joy and in sorrow:
All blessed be Christ.

In life and in death:
All blessed be Christ.

Now and to the end of the ages:
All blessed be Christ.

*This litany may be used in two parts, reserving the clauses following
the Gloria for a return procession from the place of baptism.*

¶ *An Alternative Form of the Decision*

Where there are strong pastoral reasons, the following may be used in place of the Decision in the service of Holy Baptism.

The president addresses the candidates directly, or through their parents, godparents and sponsors

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

¶ *An Alternative Profession of Faith*

Where there are strong pastoral reasons, the following may be used in place of the Profession of Faith in the service of Holy Baptism.

The president says

Let us affirm,
together with these who are being baptized,
our common faith in Jesus Christ.

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.**