

**HOLY BAPTISM OF PERSON ABLE TO ANSWER FOR THEMSELVES
ORDER FOR RECEIVING
A CANDIDATE FOR BAPTISM**

The admission of a person for catechism should normally be at a service of public worship and may take place after the after the lessons. After the lessons the candidate is brought forward by his/her sponsors and the minister says:
N desires to be received as a candidate for baptism. Let us therefore pray for him/her with sympathy and love.

Almighty and most merciful God, we ask you to look graciously upon this person who desires to find salvation through your Son Jesus Christ and to be become a member of your family, the Church. Grant that he/she may now make a sincere profession of his/her purpose, and may be enabled by your grace to persevere in the path, which he/she has chosen; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

N, what do you desire?
I ask of you Christian teaching and holy baptism.

Are you willing to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, and to follow him faithfully?
I am willing.

Are you willing to place yourself under our guidance and instruction that you may be prepare for admission into the body of Christ by baptism?
I am willing.

Will you be diligent in prayer and the study if the Bible, regular at the public worship of the Church, and faithful in receiving instruction and in witnessing to others?
I will, God being my helper.

All stand.

Then the minister says:
Jesus says: I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father, except by me.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep; mercifully receive this person into your fold. Join Him/her with your own flock, and lead him/her to the pleasant pastures of eternal life; for your mercy's sake. Amen

The minister greets the candidate according to local custom and says:
We receive you as a candidate for baptism, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May the almighty God, who has put these good desires into your hearts, bring them also to good effect. Amen

Let us pray:

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Look upon this your servant, give him/her a new heart, and renew within him/her a right spirit to know and to do your will. Prepare him/her a share in your divine mysteries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ORDER FOR HOLY BAPTISM OF INFANTS

The minister ascertains beforehand that the children have not already been baptized. When the congregation is gathered at, or proceeding to the place of baptism, a hymn may be sung, after which the minister says:
Our help is in the name of the Lord:
Who has made heaven and earth.

Let us pray

Almighty God, good Shepherd, you who deliver your chosen people from bondage and captivity, and establish with them a sure covenant, have mercy, we ask you, on your flock, and grant that these children, who are by baptism to be received into your heritage, may be delivered from the bondage of sin through the covenant of grace, and attain the promise of eternal life which you have given us in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen

The congregation may be seated.

Exhortation

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together to administer holy baptism to these children, that according to Christ's command, they may be sealed as members of Christ, children of God, and heirs of the kingdom of heaven.

Hear therefore, the words of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciple of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:18-20

Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit,

John 3:5

. Hear also what is written in the Gospel according to St Mark:

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them: and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that kingdom of God belongs. Truly I Tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God

as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10: 13-16

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He loves children and is ready to receive them, to embrace them with his merciful arms, and then we can with confidence pray, that he will grant them that gifts which will enable them to grow up as his own sons and daughters; and will give them the blessing of eternal life.

Our Lord Jesus also said.

Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above
John 3:3

Such a new birth God alone can give and it is promised to us through the working of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of baptism. God will grant his gift to this child in baptism when we ask in faith. Throughout the ages the church of God has been built up of those who received God’s gift of new birth and were incorporation into the body of Christ in their baptism either in infancy, or adults.

As the Lord Jesus granted forgiveness of sins and healing to the paralytic in response to the faith of his friends who brought him to the Lord, so God will grant new birth to this child by the power of the Holy Spirit when we ask him in faith. Let us therefore place this child in God’s loving hands, trusting that he will give him/her all that is necessary for his/her salvation and growth in grace.

The minister expounds the teaching of the Scripture concerning baptism in his/her own, and then says:

Let us pray.

O God our Lord, you desire that none of your children should perish, and you have raised up your Church so that in its common life your children may receive spiritual nourishment and grow in your likeness. We thank you for promising new life and fellowship with you to those who are born of water and the Holy Spirit. We thank you for the sacrament of baptism; which signifies that in union with Christ, they die to sin rise again to newness of life.

O Loving and merciful God, we bring this child/children to you, who alone can renew and save those who come to you in faith. Receive him/her and make him/her yours forever in the body of Christ; renew and save him/her and make him/her an instrument of your redeeming love in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we can ask or think, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen

THE PROFRSSION OF FAITH

All stand. The minister says to the parents (and godparents):

It is the duty of those who present children for baptism to make a confession of the faith in which they are baptized and promise to bring them up in the way of Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father almighty, who created heaven and earth?
We believe.

Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who for our salvation died on a cross, was raised from the dead, lives now in glory as the Saviour and Lord of all, and will come again to judge the living and the dead?

We believe.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit of God who renews, guides and strengthens the people of God?

We Believe.

The minister says to the congregation:

Let us therefore profess our faith.

The Apostles' Creed is said or sung by all:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

THE PROMISES

The minister says to the parents (and godparents):

Do you, who have brought this child for baptism promise before God and in the presence of this congregation that you will yourself steadfastly affirm and uphold the faith of the Church?

We do, God being our helper.

Do you promise that by your prayers for this child, by your own manner of life, and by your guidance, you will help him/her as he /she grows up to pray and to worship God, to study the bible, to follow the example and teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ, to share generously what he/she has with others and to take an active part in the Church's witness to Christ

We do, God being our helper.

Do you promise that you will help this child to grow in the knowledge and experience of Christ and encourage him/her later to be received into the full fellowship of the Church by confirmation; so that, established in faith by the Holy Spirit, he/she may partake of the Lord' Supper and go forth into the world to serve God faithfully in his Church?

We do, God being our helper.

The minister says to the congregation:

Dearly beloved, will you be faithful to your calling as members of the church of Christ, so that these and all others children in your midst may grow up in the knowledge and love of him?

The congregation answers

We will God being our helper; and we welcome him/her/them into our fellowship.

THE BAPTISM

Let us pray in silence for the child/children about to be baptized, that he/she/they may receive the fullness of God's grace.

The congregation may kneel.

Silence is kept for a space. Then the minister says:

The Lord be with you:

And with your spirit.

The minister prays in his/her own words.

Or, the following litany or the prayer that follows is said:

Blessed are you, O Lord God, heavenly Father, who has created all things and given us the element of water:

Blessed are you, O Lord

Blessed are you, O Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, who was baptized in the Jordan and did die and rise again:

Blessed are you, O Lord.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, who did descend upon Jesus Christ and upon the Church:

Blessed are you, O Lord.

Be present, O God, with us who call upon your threefold name, and bless this water, that it may signify the washing away of sin, and that those who are baptized therein may be born eternal life.

Gracious God, hear us.

Grant them your Holy Spirit, that they may be Baptized into the one body, and ever remain in the number of your faithful and elect people:

Gracious God, hear us.

Grant that, being united with Christ in his death resurrection, they may be dead to sin, and live to righteousness:

Gracious God, hear us.

Grant that they may put off the old person and become a new creation in Christ Jesus:

Gracious God, hear us.

From darkness, lead them to light, from death lead them to everlasting life:
Gracious God, hear us.

OR

O holy and loving God, your Word became flesh so that, in union with him, all people may be enabled to be your children. Accept this child, we pray, and make him/her your own in the body of Christ. Send your Holy Spirit and sanctify this water, that as water cleanses and refreshes the body, so this now to be baptized in this water may be born anew, and may have the blessing of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you, O Father, and with the Holy Spirit lives and reigns to the end of the ages. Amen

All stand; and the minister, having asked for the child's name, pours or sprinkles water upon each child, saying:

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

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

The minister says over each child baptized:

We have received this child into the congregation of Christ's flock and do sign him/her with the sign of the cross (here the minister may make a cross upon the child's forehead).

Then the minister says:

May this child never be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, but continue as Christ's faithful servant unto his/her life's end.

The Lord bless you and keep you: the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you: the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen

Then the doxology may be sung:

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

A procession may be made from the place of baptism into the body of the church.

THE LIGHT

The parents of the children baptized may be given lighted lamps or tapers.

When they have received them, the minister says:

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works; and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Mathew 5:16

Or some other brief forms of words may be said.

THE THANKSGIVING

The minister says, or the minister and congregation say together:

We give heartfelt thanks most merciful God, that it has pleased you to receive this child/children as by adoption and to incorporate him/her/them into your holy church. And we humbly ask you to grant that he/she/they may more and more show forth in his/her/them into your Church. And we humbly ask you to grant that he/she/they may more and more show forth in his/her life/their lives that which he/she/ is/they are now by your calling; so that as he/ she is /they are made partakers of the death of your Son, he/she/they may also be partakers of his resurrection, and finally with all your Church, inherit your everlasting kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

OR

Almighty and gracious God, in your mercy you have called all people to enter into your kingdom through the redeeming work of Christ our Saviour. We thank you for making this child/these children you own this day through baptism. By giving him/her/them new birth in water and the Holy spirit, and making him/her/them a member (s) of the body of Christ. Guide, strengthen and sanctify him/her//them all the days of his/her life/their lives. Enable his/her/their parents (and. godparents) to fulfill the promises they have made, so that under their care this child/these children may grow up in the knowledge of your love and in devotion to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, one God in wisdom, power and love, we offer thanks and praise, now and always. Amen

The minister says:

Faithful and loving God, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earth home; bless we ask you, the home (s) of this child/these children, and grant wisdom and understanding to all who care for him/her/them, that he/she /they may grow up in your constant fear and love. Pour upon his/her/them, your healing and reconciliation, and protect his/her/their home(s). Fill him/ her/them with your loving kindness and presence, and establish him/her/them in the joy of your kingdom, through the same your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A hymn or lyric may be sung here, and the thank offering taken.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

If the baptism is administered otherwise than at the Lord's Supper or at Morning or Evening Worship, the minister dismisses those that are gathered together with this blessing:

May God almighty, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love, that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Amen