

BAPTISM

Welcome to our service today when we will be welcoming a new person into the church. This is an important day for them, their friends and family, and the whole church. Please feel free to stand or move so that you can see what is happening at the font during the Baptism service itself.

Please join in with the words in red.

INTRODUCTION

God is the creator of all things, and by the birth of children he gives us a share in the work and joy of creation. But we who are born of earthly parents do need a new birth: in the Gospel Jesus says, 'No one can see the Kingdom of God without being born again.'

So God gives us the way to a second birth, a new creation, and life in union with him. Baptism is the sign and seal of this new birth.

The risen Christ commanded his followers to make disciples everywhere and to baptize them; and soon afterwards St. Peter told the people, 'Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and your children and to all that are far off, everyone whom the Lord calls to himself.'

Let us then pray for *Name* and for ourselves as we say together:

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, with *Name*, we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

OUR DUTIES AS A CHURCH FAMILY

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 this child and uphold him/her in his/her new life in Christ?

All: With the help of God, we will.

THE DUTIES OF PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

The minister says to the parents and godparents:

Parents and godparents, the Church receives this child with joy. Today we are trusting God for his/her growth in faith. Will you pray for him/her, draw him/her by your example into the community of faith, and walk with him/her in the way of Christ?

Parents and godparents:

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism *Name* begins his/her journey in faith. You speak for this child today. Will you care for him/her, and help him/her to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

Parents and godparents:

With the help of God, we will.

THE DECISION

The minister addresses the parents and godparents:

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 turn to Christ?

Parents/godparents: I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

Parents/godparents: I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

Parents/godparents: I renounce evil.

PRAYER OVER THE WATER

The minister 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.

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, *Name* may be cleansed from sin and born again. Renewed in your image, may he/she 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

By parents, godparents and the congregation.

Let us affirm together 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.

THE BAPTISM

The minister dips the candidate in water, or pours water on them, saying:

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

All: Amen.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the candidate, saying:

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

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.

THE WELCOME

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
Name, 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.



St James Font is about 500 years old and has been used to welcome hundreds of new members into our church.

This drawing is by one of them - Helen Gentile