

Baptism
as a part of a regular worship service

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When a baptism is conducted within a worship service of a congregation, items presented here are incorporated into the service. After the sermon, parents and godparents come to the font with the child.

When an adolescent or adult is baptized in a worship service, instructions given here are followed as applicable (with necessary adjustments).

An Easter candle may be lighted throughout the entire service.

Water can be ready in the font, or it may be brought and poured into the font immediately after the marking with signs of the cross.

Introductory words

Introductory words may be formulated freely, but here is an example:

P Dear Christians. We have come to celebrate an important event in the life of our congregation.

Every time we gather to worship we also commemorate baptism. This is especially true today as holy baptism is conducted in this service. We become disciples of Christ and members of the Christian church in baptism. God's Holy Spirit is received as a gift in baptism; the Spirit helps each baptized person to live as a Christian.

A Christian lives in the light of Christ. This light overcomes the darkness of sin and death.

We have been called in baptism to trust in Christ alone and to live according to his example. Every day, however, we must admit that we have not obeyed his will. Despite this we can return to the grace received in baptism. This is our hope: we rely on that grace as we now confess our sins to God.

Confession of sins

The following confession may be used:

Heavenly Father,
 I was baptized to be your child.
 You carried me from darkness to light,
 from damnation to be an heir of heaven.
 I have not, however, lived as your child should live.
 I have not listened to your voice; I have not obeyed your will.
 God, have mercy on me for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ.
 Wash me clean and forgive all my sin.

Prayer of the day

A prayer following the time of the church year or one of the following prayers may be used.

P Let us pray.

1. God, our heavenly Father,
 you give us life as a gift and take us in baptism to be your children.
 Strengthen us with your Holy Spirit
 to make us grow in faith and love.
 Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ.
2. Almighty God, dear heavenly Father.
 We thank you for baptism
 in which you wash us clean from sin
 and grant us your Holy Spirit.
 Help us to live as your children throughout our life.

3. Heavenly Father,
 we thank you for
 giving us holy baptism
 in which you let us share
 in the death and resurrection of your beloved Son.
 Lead us with your Holy Spirit
 so that we would live in the grace of baptism.
 Help us to serve you in faith.
 When our days are over, grant us eternal life in your presence.
 This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ
 our Lord.

A Amen.

Gospel reading

It is preferable to read the gospel reading given for the day in the calendar, but the "Children's Gospel" given here may be read instead.

Mark 10:13 – 16

People were bringing little children to Jesus 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 the 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.

[**P** This is the holy gospel.

A Praise to you, O Christ.]

Sermon

It is preferable to preach with a reading given for the day in the calendar as the text, but it is also possible to use Mark 10:13–16 as the text of the sermon.

Questions or a pronouncement

When the sermon ends, parents and godparents come to the font with the child.

Questions

P Parents, what is the name that you have given to your child?

Answer:

NN (given names).

P [I ask both of you,] as his/her parent, do you desire to have him/her baptized into the Christian faith?

Answer (in unison):

I do.

P Parents and godparents, do you, together with the congregation, desire that NN be brought up in the Christian faith?

Answer (in unison):

I do.

OR

P As the parent[s] of this child, you have given him/her the name NN (given names). Do you desire to have him/her baptized into the Christian faith?

Answer (in unison):

I do.

P Parents and godparents, do you, together with the congregation, desire that NN be brought up in the Christian faith?

Answer (in unison):

I do.

Pronouncement

P As the parent[s] of this child, you have given him/her the name NN (given names).

Your child will be baptized today into the Christian faith.

As parent[s] and godparents, you are responsible together with the congregation to bring up NN in the Christian faith.

Sign of the cross

While marking the forehead and chest of the child with signs of the cross, the pastor says:

Receive the holy sign of the cross on your forehead ✝ and your chest ✝ as a testimony that the crucified and risen Jesus Christ has redeemed you and called you to be his disciple.

The pastor continues:

Our gracious God, for the sake of his Son Jesus Christ, has released you from the power of sin, death and evil. May God give you strength every day to die to sin and live for Christ.

OR

The pastor prays:

Gracious God, you alone save us from all evil. Release NN (given names) from the power of darkness. Write his/her name in the book of life, and guide him/her in your light.

Then, while marking the forehead and chest of the child with signs of the cross, the pastor says:

Receive the holy sign of the cross on your forehead ✝ and your chest ✝ as a testimony that the crucified and risen Jesus Christ has redeemed you and called you to be his disciple.

The Great Commission (the words of the institution of baptism)

P Our Lord Jesus Christ himself has instituted holy baptism. He said to his disciples,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of 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)

OR

P Let us pray.

Almighty, gracious God. In the beginning you created heaven and earth, and your life-giving spirit swept over the waters. Water is your gift to nourish and sustain creation. In the great flood you drowned sin but saved Noah and his family, and so you gave us a foretaste of baptism. You brought your people across the Red Sea and freed them from their slavery under the pharaoh. According to your will John baptized your Son Jesus in the waters of the Jordan, and you anointed him with the Holy Spirit. On the cross Jesus shed blood and water from his side, and after he had risen from the dead he himself instituted holy baptism when he said to his disciples,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of 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)

We ask in obedience to the command of your Son: look upon us now and open up a fountain of baptism for your church. Send your Holy Spirit to generate new life, so that the one who is buried into the death of Christ in this fountain of grace will also rise with him to new life. May this water remind us of our baptism and join us in joy to all of

our brothers and sisters who have been united in baptism to the body of Christ. This we ask for the sake of Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

OR

P Let us pray.

God, giver of life. You created water to make the earth fertile and to refresh and cleanse us. You saved Noah and his family in the ark. We thank you for giving us baptism to be our ark of salvation. Your people went from slavery in Egypt through the water into freedom. Your Son Jesus received baptism in the waters of the Jordan, and by his death and resurrection he freed us from the chains of sin and death. After he had risen from the dead he himself instituted holy baptism when he said to his disciples,

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of 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)

We pray: send us your Holy Spirit, so that the one who is baptized in this water receives new life and becomes an inheritor of your eternal kingdom. Hear our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

*** Creed**

The creed is said in unison.

Other accepted versions may be used instead.

P Let us confess our Christian faith together.

A 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 the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

P Into this faith and to possess all the promises contained in it we now baptize this child.

*** Baptism**

The pastor pours water on the child three times and says:

*NN (given names only), I baptize you in the name
of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

The pastor then lays his/her hand on the child's head. Parents and godparents may also do so.

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

A Amen.

The pastor holds the child's baptismal dress and says:

The apostle Paul says, "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." (Gal. 3:27)

The pastor takes the baptismal candle and lights it from an altar candle, the Easter candle or a candle burning by the font. Then the pastor gives the lit candle to the parent(s) and says:

Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."
(John 8:12)

The pastor takes the child into his/her arms and says:

In holy baptism NN (the child's given names) has become a member of Christ's church and the congregation of X (name of local congregation). We take him/her and his/her home into our love and prayers. Jesus took a child in his arms and said, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." (Mark 9:37)

The pastor gives the child back to a parent or godparent.

The parents and godparents return to their seats with the baptized child.

Hymn

Other suitable music may be used in place of a hymn.

Prayer of intercession

In the prayer of intercession special reference is made to the baptized individual and people close to him/her.

Eucharistic prayer

Ending of the preface

You have called us in baptism to be your children,
and you lead us from darkness to light
and from death to life.

We thank you for this gift of heaven,
and with all your angels and saints
we sing our praise to you:
