

HOLY BAPTISM 2006

*The Rite is intended for use within the Eucharist, following the gospel.
Whenever possible the Bishop presides.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The president says

Blessed be God,
All **the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**
by whose great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope
All **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

2. GOD'S CALL

The president addresses the candidate(s) or, at the baptism of infants, those who are presenting the candidate(s)

Either

God is love. God gives us life.
In Christ God reaches out to us.
In baptism God calls us to respond.

Do you accept this call?

Candidate

*I hear and accept God's call.
I ask for baptism.*

Or

Presenters

*We hear and accept God's call
to N.*

We ask for baptism.

Or

The apostle Peter proclaimed God's call when he urged his hearers: "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God may call." *Acts 2:38-40*

Do you accept this call?

Candidate

*I hear and accept God's call.
I ask for baptism.*

Or

Presenters

*We hear and accept God's call to N.
We ask for baptism.*

The president addresses the rest of the congregation

God calls the Church to reflect Christ's glory, in baptism to declare his new life, in fellowship and mission to share it.
Do you accept this call?

All **We hear and accept God's call.**

The president addresses the rest of the congregation

Our Lord Jesus Christ said to his disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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."

Matthew 28:18-20

Do you accept this call?

All **We hear and accept God's call.**

3. TURNING TO CHRIST

The president addresses the candidate(s) or, at the baptism of infants, those who are presenting the candidate(s)

Either

The Christian life means turning from evil and turning to Christ. Standing now with Christ, do you renounce evil?

Answer *I renounce evil.*

Seeking now to follow him, do you turn to Christ?

Answer *I turn to Christ.*

Or

The Christian life means turning from evil and turning to Christ. Do you renounce evil?

Answer *I renounce evil.*

Do you repent of sin?

Answer *I repent of sin.*

Do you turn to Christ?

Answer *I turn to Christ.*

Will you follow Christ?

Answer *I will follow Christ.*

4. PROFESSION OF FAITH

Either

4.a *Profession of Faith (longer form)*

The president addresses the whole congregation

All Do you believe in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

All Do you believe in God the Son?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and 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 again to judge the living and the dead.**

All Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**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.**

The president addresses the candidate(s) or, at the baptism of infants, those who are presenting the candidate(s)

This is the faith of the Church.

Answer *This is our faith.*

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Or

4.b *Profession of Faith (shorter form)*

Either

The president addresses the whole congregation

Do you believe
in God the Father,
who made the world?
All **I believe.**

Do you believe
in God the Son,
who redeemed humanity?
All **I believe.**

Do you believe
in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to
God's people?
All **I believe.**

The president addresses the candidate(s)

This is the faith of the
Church.
Answer *This is our faith.*
We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**

Or

The president addresses the whole congregation

Do you believe
in God the Creator,
who made the world?
All **I believe.**

Do you believe
in God the Saviour,
who redeemed humanity?
All **I believe.**

Do you believe
in God the Sanctifier,
who gives life to
God's people?
All **I believe.**

The president addresses the candidate(s)

This is the faith of the
Church.
Answer *This is our faith.*
We believe in one God,
Creator, Saviour and
Sanctifier.
All **Amen.**

5. COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN LIFE

Either

The president addresses the candidate(s)

N., as a disciple of Christ will you continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

Answer With the help of God, I will.

Or

At the baptism of infants the president addresses those who are presenting the candidate(s)

NN., as those who will love and care for N., will you continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

Answer With the help of God, I will.

The president then continues

Will you proclaim the good news by word and deed, serving Christ in all people?

Answer With the help of God, I will.

Will you work for justice and peace, honouring God in all Creation?

Answer With the help of God, I will.

The president addresses the whole congregation

This is the task of the Church.

All

**This is our task:
to live and work for the kingdom of God.**

6. THE BAPTISMAL PRAYER

Water is poured into the Font. The president says

Holy God, well-spring of life,
in your love and justice,
you use the gift of water to declare your saving power.
In the beginning your Spirit moved over the face of the waters.
By the gentle dew, the steady rain,
you nourish and give increase to all that grows;
you make the desert a watered garden.
You command the wildness of the waves;
when the storm rages you calm our fear;
in the stillness you lead us to a deeper faith.
In the life-giving rivers and the rainbow
Israel discerned your mercy.
You divided the Red Sea
to let them pass from slavery in Egypt
to freedom in the Promised Land.
In the waters of Jordan
penitents found forgiveness in the baptism of John.
There, Jesus your beloved child
was anointed with the Holy Spirit,
that he might bring us
to the glorious liberty of the children of God.
Send upon this water and upon your people [*or* upon N.)
your holy, life-giving Spirit.

All **Bring those who are baptised in this water
with Christ through the waters of death,
to be one with him in his resurrection.
Sustain your people by your Spirit
to be hope and strength to the world.**

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

7. THE BAPTISM

The president immerses the candidate in the water, or pours the water upon the candidate, saying

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

All **Amen.**

8. ANOINTING AND LAYING-ON OF HANDS

The president anoints the candidate upon the forehead, making the sign of the Cross with the Oil of Chrism, and saying

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism
and marked as Christ's own for ever.

All **Amen.**

The president lays hands on the candidate's head, saying

May the Spirit of God be in you,
wisdom and understanding keep you,
the power of God encircle you,
and God's truth lead you into freedom.

All **Amen.**

9. GIVING OF LIGHT

A lighted candle is given as the president says

N., the light of Christ
scatter the darkness from your heart and mind.

All **Christ go before you to guide your steps.
Christ be within you to kindle your vision.
Christ shine from you to give joy to the world.**

10. WELCOME

The president addresses the candidate(s)

All N., God has received you by baptism into the Church.
We welcome you.
We will care for you.
We will share our faith with you.

The Eucharist continues with the Peace

All Renewed in the Spirit, we meet in Christ's name;
Let us share his peace.

HOLY BAPTISM outside the Eucharist

COLLECT

If there is no Eucharist, this prayer is said at the end of Section 2

Eternal God, who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
keep your people, born of water and the Spirit,
faithful to their calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

READING(S)

After the Collect one or more of these passages of Scripture may then be read

Ezekiel 36.34-38
Psalm 29
1 Peter 3.18-22
Colossians 1.11-14
Mark 1.6-11
John 3.1-8 or 6.37-40

Sections 3 to 10 of Holy Baptism then follow, and the Liturgy concludes with Prayer for the Newly-Baptised.

PRAYER FOR THE NEWLY-BAPTISED

Silent Prayer is offered for those who have been baptised and for those who brought them to baptism.

The president then says one of the following prayers

Holy God, your grace has appeared, bringing salvation to all.
Help us, your people, to live lives that are upright and godly,
while we wait for the manifestation of the glory of our God and Saviour;
through him who gave himself for us, that he might make of us a people
of his own,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Or

Holy God, your grace has dawned upon the world with healing for all.
Help us live in the present age a life that is honest and godly,
looking forward to the happy fulfilment of our hope when the splendour
of our great God and Saviour will appear in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Or

God our Saviour, when your kindness and generosity dawned upon the
world,
you saved us in your mercy through the water of rebirth and the renewing
power of the Holy Spirit.
Grant that we who have been justified by your grace may in hope
become heirs to eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

Or

God of mercy, you understand our frailty
and call us into the sustaining fellowship of the household of faith.
Bless those who have stood beside *NN* at *his/her/their* baptism.
May their love and prayer accompany *him/her/them* on the journey that
lies ahead,
until together they grow into the fullness of humanity measured by Christ
himself,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Either

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray

Or

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us, we are bold to 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.
Do not bring us
to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

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.**

BLESSING

The president says the Blessing

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 the light of his countenance upon you
and give you peace, now and for evermore.

All

Amen.

For Baptism administered in emergency, see Notes

HOLY BAPTISM

Notes

The President

Just as the Bishop normally presides at the Eucharist while visiting a congregation, so s/he would normally preside at Baptism in the same way.

The president may delegate her/his role to others, however the president will always lead:

The Introduction

The Questions in Section 2

The Baptismal Prayer

The Baptism

The Anointing and Laying-on of Hands

The Giving of Light

Baptism and Eucharist

As the opening rubric says, the Rite is intended for use within the Eucharist, because it is in the Eucharist that the community of faith offers itself with Christ again and again in a single, holy, living sacrifice for the coming of God's Kingdom - i.e., for the purpose of the Church into which the candidates are to be incorporated through the sacrament. If, for pastoral reasons, it is felt necessary to celebrate Baptism outside the Eucharist, liturgical material is provided following Section 10.

Section 5 Commitment to Christian Life

Procession to the Font. At the end of this section, the president, candidates and presenters may move to the Font. A hymn or psalm may be sung.

Section 6 The Baptismal Prayer

If desired, the president may use appropriate gestures, such as making the sign of the cross or dividing the waters with the hand.

Section 8 Anointing and Laying-on of Hands

The Oil of Chrism is blessed by the Bishop, usually on Maundy Thursday, to be used in Baptism. It is traditional in the Anointing to make the sign of the cross with the Oil on the forehead, but it is also part of the tradition to anoint by simply pouring the Oil.

Section 9 Giving of Light

A lighted candle is given either at this point or at the Dismissal.

Emergency Baptism

In sudden or extreme emergency the minister of baptism (who may be a lay person) pours water on the person to be baptised and says:

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

It may be inappropriate to offer lengthy prayers and readings. The following may be said if circumstances permit:

The Lord's Prayer

All present may say:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all, evermore. Amen.

Or the minister may say:

May the God of all grace and mercy
bless, preserve and keep you.
Amen.

or

To God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you.
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 the light of his countenance upon you
and give you peace, now and for ever.
Amen.

II If time allows

A selection from among the following may be made:

1 An introduction in the following or similar words

a) to the parents of an infant who is critically ill:

You have asked that your child [N.] receive the gift of baptism.
He/she is a child of God's love.
Through baptism he/she is joined to Jesus Christ,
who in the dark hour of his suffering and at the point of death
cried out to the God whom he dared to call Father,
the God who was even then waiting
to transform the place of perplexity
into a place from which new life might begin.
So as we bring N./her/him to the waters of baptism
she/he becomes a member of Christ,
the Christ who suffered, who died, and who now lives for ever.

or

You have asked for your child [N.] to be baptised.
As we bring her/him to the refreshing and renewing waters of baptism,
we enlist her/him also in the company of all those
who with Jesus have faced their death,
and with him have discovered through death
the endless love of the God of life.

b) to an adult who is critically ill:

In asking now to receive baptism,
you entrust your life and your future
to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
enlisting in the company of all those
who with Jesus have faced their death,
and with him have discovered through death
the endless love of the God of life.

or any similar words that make plain that to ask for baptism is to opt freely for membership in the Body of Christ.

2 Readings

One or more of the following are suggested:

Isaiah 43:1,2

Psalm 62:6,7

Psalm 62:8,9

Psalm 66:7,8

Psalm 66:18

John 6:37b-39

3 Prayer

Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

God of unfailing mercy,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by whom nothing is ever made in vain:
look in compassion on this child of your love,
and complete in her/him the work you have begun;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

or another similar prayer, as appropriate.

Notes on Emergency Baptism

- 1 The ultimate destiny of the sick person or, in the event of death, the right to Christian burial, do not depend upon whether the sick person has been baptised.
- 2 To request baptism, whether for one's self or for one's child, is to opt freely for membership of the Body of Christ.
- 3 Emergency baptism may be administered by a lay person, or by an ordained minister if available. In either case, those who have the pastoral responsibility for the person baptised should be informed at the earliest opportunity.
- 4 If for any reason the name of the sick person is not known, baptism may be administered without naming; but in recording the baptism the identity of the baptised person must be made clear.
- 5 No prayer over the water is required. The pouring or sprinkling of water may be by hand or (if, for example, the sick person is in an oxygen tent) from a spoon, and not necessarily on the head.
- 6 Baptised sick persons who recover should come, or be brought, at an appropriate time, to a baptismal service in church, at which public recognition should be given to the baptism they have received. They should then participate in the whole baptismal rite, only the baptism with water being in their case omitted.