

The Book of Common Prayer  
(Episcopal Church, 1979)

The Book of Common Prayer,  
Formatted as the original

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# Holy Baptism

## Concerning the Service

Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble.

Holy Baptism is appropriately administered within the Eucharist as the chief service on a Sunday or other feast.

The bishop, when present, is the celebrant; and is expected to preach the Word and preside at Baptism and the Eucharist. At Baptism, the bishop officiates at the Presentation and Examination of the Candidates; says the Thanksgiving over the Water; [consecrates the Chrism;] reads the prayer, "Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit;" and officiates at what follows.

In the absence of a bishop, a priest is the celebrant and presides at the service. If a priest uses Chrism in signing the newly baptized, it must have been previously consecrated by the bishop.

Each candidate for Holy Baptism is to be sponsored by one or more baptized persons.

Sponsors of adults and older children present their candidates and thereby signify their endorsement of the candidates and their intention to support them by prayer and example in their Christian life. Sponsors of infants, commonly called godparents, present their candidates, make promises in their own names, and also take vows on behalf of their candidates.

It is fitting that parents be included among the godparents of their own children. Parents and godparents are to be instructed in the meaning of Baptism, in their duties to help the new Christians grow in the knowledge and love of God, and in their responsibilities as members of his Church.

Additional Directions are on page 312.

## Holy Baptism

*A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.*

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*In place of the above, from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost*

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

*In Lent and on other penitential occasions*

*Celebrant* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;  
*People* His mercy endures for ever.

*The Celebrant then continues*

There is one Body and one Spirit;  
*People* There is one hope in God's call to us;  
*Celebrant* One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;  
*People* One God and Father of all.

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

## The Collect of the Day

People Amen.

*At the principal service on a Sunday or other feast, the Collect and Lessons are properly those of the Day. On other occasions they are selected from "At Baptism." (See Additional Directions, page 312.)*

## The Lessons

*The people sit. One or two Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying*

A Reading (Lesson) from\_\_\_\_\_.

*A citation giving chapter and verse may be added.*

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

*or the Reader may say Here ends the Reading (Epistle).*

*Silence may follow.*

*A Psalm, hymn, or anthem may follow each Reading.*

*Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to\_\_\_\_\_.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## The Sermon

*Or the Sermon may be preached after the Peace.*

## Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

*The Celebrant says*

The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

### Adults and Older Children

*The candidates who are able to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Sponsors, as follows*

*Sponsor* I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*The Celebrant asks each candidate when presented*

Do you desire to be baptized?

*Candidate* I do.

### Infants and Younger Children

*Then the candidates unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows*

*Parents and Godparents*

I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*When all have been presented the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents*

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents and Godparents*

I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant*

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

*Parents and Godparents*

I will, with God's help.

*Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children*

*Question* Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

*Answer* I renounce them.

*Question* Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

*Answer* I do.

*Question* Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

*Answer* I do.

*Question* Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

*Answer* I do.

*When there are others to be presented, the Bishop says*

The other Candidate(s) will now be presented.

*Presenters* I present *these persons* for Confirmation.

*or* I present *these persons* to be received into this Communion.

*or* I present *these persons* who *desire* to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

*The Bishop asks the candidates*

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*Candidate* I do.

*Bishop*

Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*Candidate*

I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

*After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in *their* life in Christ?

*People* We will.

*The Celebrant then says these or similar words*

Let us join with *those* who are committing *themselves* to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

## The Baptismal Covenant

- Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Father?  
*People* I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.
- Celebrant* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
*People* I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- Celebrant* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
*People* 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.
- Celebrant* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and  
fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the  
prayers?  
*People* I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever  
you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
*People* I will, with God's help.

- Celebrant* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good  
News of God in Christ?  
*People* I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving  
your neighbor as yourself?  
*People* I will, with God's help.
- Celebrant* Will you strive for justice and peace among all  
people, and respect the dignity of every human  
being?  
*People* I will, with God's help.

### Prayers for the Candidates

*The Celebrant then says to the congregation*

Let us now pray for *these persons* who *are* to receive the  
Sacrament of new birth [and for those (this person) who  
*have* renewed *their* commitment to Christ.]

*A Person appointed leads the following petitions*

- Leader* Deliver *them*, O Lord, from the way of sin and  
death.  
*People* Lord, hear our prayer.
- Leader* Open *their hearts* to your grace and truth.  
*People* Lord, hear our prayer.
- Leader* Fill *them* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.  
*People* Lord, hear our prayer.
- Leader* Keep *them* in the faith and communion of your holy  
Church.  
*People* Lord, hear our prayer.
- Leader* Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit.  
*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Send *them* into the world in witness to your love.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* Bring *them* to the fullness of your peace and glory.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*The Celebrant says*

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. *Amen.*

### Thanksgiving over the Water

*The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying*

The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Celebrant*

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting 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 bring into his

fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water*

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### Consecration of the Chrism

*The Bishop may then consecrate oil of Chrism, placing a hand on the vessel of oil, and saying*

Eternal Father, whose blessed Son was anointed by the Holy Spirit to be the Savior and servant of all, we pray you to consecrate this oil, that those who are sealed with it may share in the royal priesthood of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The Baptism

*Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses, or pours water upon, the candidate, saying*

N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

*When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Bishop or Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying*

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon *these* your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised *them* to the new life of grace. Sustain *them*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give *them* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

*Then the Bishop or Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross [using Chrism if desired] and saying to each one*

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

*Or this action may be done immediately after the administration of the water and before the preceding prayer.*

*When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*Celebrant and People*

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

*If Confirmation, Reception, or the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows is not to follow, the Peace is now exchanged*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

## At Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation

*The Bishop says to the congregation*

Let us now pray for *these persons* who have renewed *their* commitment to Christ.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Then the Bishop says*

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in *these* your servants the covenant you made with *them* at *their* Baptism. Send *them* forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before *them*; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## For Confirmation

*The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says*

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant N. with your Holy Spirit; empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life. *Amen.*

*or this*

Defend, O Lord, your servant N. with your heavenly grace, that *he* may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until *he* comes to your everlasting kingdom. *Amen.*

### For Reception

N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. *Amen.*

### For Reaffirmation

N., may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. *Amen.*

*Then the Bishop says*

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over *these* your *servants*; let your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*; and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that *they* may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The Peace is then exchanged*

*Bishop* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* And also with you.

### At the Eucharist

*The service then continues with the Prayers of the People or the Offertory of the Eucharist, at which the Bishop, when present, should be the principal Celebrant.*

*Except on Principal Feasts, the Proper Preface of Baptism may be used.*

### Alternative Ending

*If there is no celebration of the Eucharist, the service continues with the Lord's Prayer*

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.	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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.
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*The Celebrant then says*

All praise and thanks to you, most merciful Father, for adopting us as your own children, for incorporating us into your holy Church, and for making us worthy to share in the inheritance of the saints in light; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Alms may be received and presented, and other prayers may be added, concluding with this prayer*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named, grant you to be strengthened with might by his Holy Spirit, that, Christ dwelling in your hearts by faith, you may be filled with all the fullness of God. *Amen.*

## *Additional Directions*

Holy Baptism is especially appropriate at the Easter Vigil, on the Day of Pentecost, on All Saints' Day or the Sunday after All Saints' Day, and on the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (the First Sunday after the Epiphany). It is recommended that, as far as possible, Baptisms be reserved for these occasions or when a bishop is present.

If on any one of the above-named days the ministry of a bishop or priest cannot be obtained, the bishop may specially authorize a deacon to preside. In that case, the deacon omits the prayer over the candidates, page 308, and the formula and action which follow.

These omitted portions of the rite may be administered on some subsequent occasion of public baptism at which a bishop or priest presides.

If on the four days listed above there are no candidates for Baptism, the Renewal of Baptismal Vows, page 292, may take the place of the Nicene Creed at the Eucharist.

If desired, the hymn *Gloria in excelsis* may be sung immediately after the opening versicles and before the salutation "The Lord be with you."

When a bishop is present, or on other occasions for sufficient reason, the Collect (page 203 or 254) and one or more of the Lessons provided for use at Baptism (page 928) may be substituted for the Proper of the Day.

Lay persons may act as readers, and it is appropriate for sponsors to be assigned this function. The petitions (page 305) may also be led by one of the sponsors.

The Nicene Creed is not used at this service.

If the Presentation of the Candidates does not take place at the font, then before or during the petitions (page 305), the ministers, candidates, and sponsors go to the font for the Thanksgiving over the Water.

If the movement to the font is a formal procession, a suitable psalm, such as Psalm 42, or a hymn or anthem, may be sung.

Where practicable, the font is to be filled with clean water immediately before the Thanksgiving over the Water.

At the Thanksgiving over the Water, and at the administration of Baptism, the celebrant, whenever possible, should face the people across the font, and the sponsors should be so grouped that the people may have a clear view of the action.

After the Baptism, a candle (which may be lighted from the Paschal Candle) may be given to each of the newly baptized or to a godparent.

It may be found desirable to return to the front of the church for the prayer, "Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit," and the ceremonies that follow it. A suitable psalm, such as Psalm 23, or a hymn or anthem, may be sung during the procession.

The oblations of bread and wine at the baptismal Eucharist may be presented by the newly baptized or their godparents.

### **Conditional Baptism**

*If there is reasonable doubt that a person has been baptized with water, "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (which are the essential parts of Baptism), the person is baptized in the usual manner, but this form of words is used*

If you are not already baptized, N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

### **Emergency Baptism**

*In case of emergency, any baptized person may administer Baptism according to the following form.*

*Using the given name of the one to be baptized (if known), pour water on him or her, saying*

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

*The Lord's Prayer is then said.*

*Other prayers, such as the following, may be added*

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin and have raised *him* to the new life of grace. Strengthen *him*, O Lord, with your presence, enfold *him* in the arms of your mercy, and keep *him* safe for ever.

*The person who administers emergency Baptism should inform the priest of the appropriate parish, so that the fact can be properly registered.*

*If the baptized person recovers, the Baptism should be recognized at a public celebration of the Sacrament with a bishop or priest presiding, and the person baptized under emergency conditions, together with the sponsors or godparents, taking part in everything except the administration of the water.*

The Book of Common Prayer (Anglican Church in  
North America, 2019).

BAPTISM &  
CONFIRMATION

## CONCERNING HOLY BAPTISM

In Holy Baptism, the outward and visible sign is water, in which candidates are baptized “in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (MATTHEW 28:19). The inward and spiritual grace is death to sin and new birth to righteousness, through union with Christ in his death and resurrection (ROMANS 6:1-11).

Holy Baptism is appropriately administered within the Eucharist as the chief service on Sunday or other Holy Day. In this way the Congregation may welcome the newly baptized into Christ’s Church, and may be reminded of the benefits which they themselves received and the profession which they made in Holy Baptism.

The Bishop, when present, is normally the celebrant.

Each candidate for Holy Baptism is to be sponsored by one or more baptized persons, who are themselves committed to Christ and commended by the example of their own holy living. Sponsors of adults and older children present their candidates and thereby signify their endorsement of the candidates and their intention to support them by prayer and encouragement in the Christian life. Sponsors of infants, commonly called godparents, present their candidates, make promises in their own names, and also take vows on behalf of their candidates.

Adults and older children are to be instructed in the meaning of Baptism and the Christian faith. Godparents and sponsoring parents are likewise to be instructed in the meaning of Baptism, in their duties to help new Christians grow in the knowledge and love of God, and in their responsibilities as members of the Church.

The minister shall encourage parents not to defer the Baptism of their children.

## HOLY BAPTISM

*Baptism should be administered as part of the Holy Eucharist on a Sunday or other Holy Day. The most appropriate days for Baptism are the Easter Vigil, the Baptism of Our Lord, Pentecost, and All Saints’ Day (or the Sunday after All Saints’ Day). The Bishop is the appropriate Celebrant, if present.*

*A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.*

*The People standing, the Celebrant says this or a seasonal greeting (pages 145-146)*

Blessed be God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant then continues*

There is one Body and one Spirit;

*People* **There is one hope in God’s call to us;**

*Celebrant* One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

*People* **One God and Father of all.**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with your spirit.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant prays the Collect of the Day.*

*People* **Amen.**

*The liturgy continues with the appointed Lessons. Following the Sermon, the Candidates with their Sponsors stand before the Celebrant.*

#### THE EXHORTATION

*The Celebrant then says to the People*

Dearly beloved, Scripture teaches that we were all dead in our sins and trespasses, but by grace we may be saved through faith. Our Savior Jesus Christ said, “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God”; and he commissioned the Church to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Here we ask our heavenly Father that *these Candidates*, being baptized with water, may be filled with the Holy Spirit, born again, and received into the Church as *living members* of Christ’s body. Therefore, I urge you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his abundant mercy he will grant to *these Candidates* that which by nature *they* cannot have.

#### THE PRESENTATION

*The Celebrant says*

The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

#### ADULTS AND OLDER CHILDREN

*The Candidates who are able to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Sponsors, using full names as follows*

I present *N.N.* to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*The Celebrant asks Candidates the following*

*Celebrant* Have you already been baptized?

*Candidate* **No.**

*Celebrant* Do you desire to be baptized?

*Candidate* **I do.**

#### INFANTS AND YOUNGER CHILDREN

*Then the Candidates who are unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Godparents and Sponsoring Parents, using full names, as follows*

I present *N.N.* to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

*When the following promises are made by Godparents and Sponsoring Parents of infants or young children, the Celebrant addresses them*

Today, on behalf of *this child*, you shall make vows to renounce the devil and all his works, to trust God wholeheartedly, and to serve him faithfully. It is your task to see that *this child* is taught, as soon as *he* is able to learn, the meaning of all these vows, and of the Faith that you will profess as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. *He* must come to put *his* faith in Jesus Christ, and learn the Creeds, the Lord’s Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and all other things that a Christian ought to know, believe, and do for the welfare of *his* soul. When *he* has embraced all these, *he* is to come to the Bishop to be confirmed, that *he* may publicly claim the Faith for *his* own and be further strengthened by the Holy Spirit to serve Christ and his kingdom.

Are you willing and ready to undertake this?

*Godparents and Sponsoring Parents*

**I am, the Lord being my helper.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The Celebrant then examines the Candidates who can speak for themselves, and the Godparents and Sponsoring Parents who will speak on behalf of infants or young children, saying*

*Question* Do you renounce the devil and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

*Answer* **I renounce them.**

*Question* Do you renounce the empty promises and deadly deceptions of this world that corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

*Answer* **I renounce them.**

*Question* Do you renounce the sinful desires of the flesh that draw you from the love of God?

*Answer* **I renounce them.**

*The Celebrant prays over the Candidate(s) and may anoint each Candidate with the Oil of Exorcism, saying*

Almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness and evil, and lead you into the light and obedience of the kingdom of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant continues*

*Question* Do you turn to Jesus Christ and confess him as your Lord and Savior?

*Answer* **I do.**

*Question* Do you joyfully receive the Christian Faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

*Answer* **I do.**

*Question* Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life?

*Answer* **I will, the Lord being my helper.**

*The Celebrant then addresses the Congregation, first inviting them to stand.*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in *their* life in Christ?

*The Congregation responds*

**We will.**

*The Celebrant then says*

Let us join with *these Candidates* to proclaim our faith in the words of the ancient baptismal confession, the Apostles' Creed.

*Celebrant* Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

*People* **I do.**

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

*Celebrant* Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ?

*People* **I do.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He 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,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

*Celebrant* Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

*People* I do.

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.

#### LITANY FOR THE CANDIDATES

*The Deacon, or other person appointed, may say*

Let us now pray for *these Candidates* who *are* to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

That *these children* may come to confess their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

**We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.**

That *all these Candidates* may continue in the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.

**We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.**

That *they* may walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which *they have* been called, ever growing in faith and all heavenly virtues.

**We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.**

That *they* may persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever *they fall* into sin, repent and return to the Lord.

**We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.**

That *they* may proclaim by word and deed the Good News of God in Christ Jesus to a lost and broken world.

**We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.**

That as *living members* of the Body of Christ, *they* may grow up in every way into him who is the head.

**We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.**

That, looking to Jesus, *they* may run with endurance the race set before *them*, and at the last receive the unfading crown of glory.

**We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.**

*Other petitions may be added.*

#### PRAYER FOR THE CANDIDATES

*The Celebrant now prays for the Candidate(s) as follows*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting Father, in your great mercy you saved Noah and his family in the Ark from the destruction of the flood, prefiguring the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Look mercifully upon *these* your *servants*. Wash and sanctify *them* through your Holy Spirit, that *they* may be delivered from destruction and received into the Ark of Christ's Church; and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love, *they* may pass through the turbulent floods of this troublesome world and come into the land of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

*If there is a procession to the baptismal font, a psalm, anthem, or hymn may be sung.*

*The Deacon, or the Celebrant, pours the water for Baptism.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with your spirit.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John in the River Jordan when the Holy Spirit descended upon him as a dove.

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 made regenerate by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*Here the Celebrant touches the water and says*

Now, Father, sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit. May all who are baptized here be cleansed from sin, be born again, and continue for ever faithful in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE BAPTISM

*The Celebrant may say to the Sponsors*

Name this *Candidate/Child*.

*Then the Celebrant immerses the Candidate or pours water upon the Candidate three times, saying*

*N.*, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant makes the sign of the Cross upon the forehead of the newly baptized (and may use the Oil of Chrism to do so), saying*

*N.*, receive the sign of the Cross as a token of your new life in Christ, in which you shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, to fight bravely under his banner against the world, the flesh, and the devil, and to continue as his faithful soldier and servant to the end of your days. **Amen.**

*or this*

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

*If garments or candles are presented, they are given here.*

*When all have been baptized and signed the Celebrant says*

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon *these* your *servants* the forgiveness of sin, received *them* as your own *children* by adoption, made *them members* of your holy Church, and raised *them* to the new life of grace. Sustain *them*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit, that *they* may enjoy everlasting salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

*Celebrant and People*

**We receive you into the fellowship of the Church.  
Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his  
resurrection, and share with us in the royal priesthood  
of all his people.**

*The Peace is now exchanged.*

*Celebrant* The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* **And with your spirit.**

*The liturgy continues with Communion, beginning at the Offertory.*

## ADDITIONAL DIRECTIONS

In the absence of a Bishop, a Priest is the celebrant and presides at the liturgy. If a Priest uses Chrism in signing the newly baptized, it must have been previously consecrated by the Bishop.

In the absence of a Bishop or Priest, the Bishop may specially authorize and delegate a Deacon to preside. In that case, the Deacon omits the Prayer for the Candidates, the Thanksgiving over the Water, and the anointing with Chrism. These omitted portions of the rite may be administered on some subsequent occasion of public Baptism at which a Bishop or Priest presides.

If desired, the Collect for Purity, the Summary of the Law (or the Decalogue), the *Kyrie* (or the *Trisagion*), and the *Gloria in excelsis* may be inserted immediately after the opening versicles (ending with “One God and Father of all”) and before the salutation, “The Lord be with you.” If a Confession of Sin is desired, it may be inserted after the Summary of the Law (or the Decalogue).

The Litany for the Candidates serves as the Prayers of the People.

If the Presentation of the Candidates does not take place at the font, then the ministers, candidates, and sponsors go to the font for the Thanksgiving over the Water. If the movement to the font is a formal procession, a suitable psalm (such as Psalm 42), or a hymn or anthem, may be sung.

Where practicable, the font is to be filled with clean water immediately before the Thanksgiving over the Water.

At the Thanksgiving over the Water, and at the administration of Baptism, the Celebrant, whenever possible, should face the People across the Font, and the Sponsors should be so grouped that the People may have a clear view of the action.

In the Thanksgiving over the Water, the words “made regenerate” may be replaced by the words “born again.” Regeneration is a Biblical word (“the washing of regeneration,” TITUS 3:5), and it appears in the Thirty-Nine Articles (IX and XXVII).

After the Baptism and signing, and prior to the giving of the candle (if there be one), a white garment may be placed upon the newly baptized. The Celebrant says, “Receive this white garment as a token of the righteousness given you by God’s grace in this Sacrament of Baptism, and as a sign that you should always give yourself to holy living for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

The Deacon or Celebrant may light a candle from the Paschal Candle and give it to the newly baptized, saying, “N., receive the light of our Lord Jesus Christ who said: ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”

If there is no celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the liturgy continues with the Lord’s Prayer. Other appropriate prayers may be added. The liturgy concludes with a blessing or an appropriate verse of Scripture.

#### CONDITIONAL BAPTISM

*If there is reasonable doubt that a person has been baptized with water “in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,” the person is baptized in the usual manner, but this form of words is used.*

If you are not already baptized, N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

#### EMERGENCY BAPTISM

*In case of emergency, any baptized person may administer Baptism, using the given name of the one baptized (if known), and pouring water on him or her, saying,*

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

*The Lord’s Prayer is then said. Other prayers may be added.*

*The person who administers emergency Baptism should inform the Priest of the appropriate Congregation, so that the fact can be properly recorded. If the baptized person recovers, the Baptism should be recognized at a public celebration of the Sacrament with a Bishop or Priest presiding, and the person baptized under emergency conditions, together with the Sponsors or Godparents, taking part in everything except the administration of the water.*