

Baptism and Holy Communion (BCP) (2016)

Adult candidates for baptism shall each choose two sponsors, themselves baptized, who shall present them at the font at the time appointed.

There shall be for every male child to be baptized two godfathers and one godmother; and for every female, one godfather and two godmothers. Nevertheless, when three sponsors cannot be had, one godfather and one godmother will suffice. At least one parent shall also be sponsor for the child. The sponsors shall be baptized persons and able to make the promises required.

The bishop, if present, shall be the Celebrant.

An Introit may be sung or said as the Celebrant proceeds to the holy table.

The Celebrant standing at the table, shall say in an audible voice the Lord's Prayer with the Collect following, the people kneeling.

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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
AMEN.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy Holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN.

Then may be sung or said:

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Then the Celebrant shall say:

The Lord be with you;
People: **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Then shall be said the Collect of the Day, or the following:

Almighty and everlasting God, who through thy well-beloved Son Jesus Christ didst sanctify water to the mystical washing away of sin: we beseech thee mercifully to look upon *these persons* coming to thy holy baptism with repentance and faith: wash *them* and sanctify *them* with the Holy Spirit; that *they* may receive remission of *their* sins by spiritual regeneration, and may be received into thy holy church. And, as thou hast promised in thy holy word, saying, ask, and ye shall have; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: so give now unto us that ask; let us that seek find; open the gate unto us that knock; that *these persons* being steadfast



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in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may come to thy eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

If the Epistle (Lesson) and Gospel of the Day are clearly inappropriate, a selection from the following may be made:

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Isaiah 55:1-11

Romans 6:3-5; 8:14-17

2 Corinthians:17-20

Mark 1:9-11

John 3:1-6

Then, the people being seated, the priest or other person appointed shall read the Epistle, saying:

“The Epistle (or the Lesson) is written in the . . . chapter . . . beginning at the . . . verse.”

and the reading ended, he/ she shall say:

“Here endeth the Epistle (or the Lesson).”

Here may follow a Psalm or a Hymn.

Then shall the people stand for the Gospel; and the deacon or priest who reads shall say:

“The Holy Gospel is written in the . . . chapter of the Gospel according to Saint . . . beginning at the . . . verse.”

Then shall the people sing or say:

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

And after the reading of the Gospel they shall sing or say:

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

Standing at the font, which is to be filled with pure water in the presence of the people, the Celebrant shall say to each candidate for baptism who is able to answer for him/ herself:

Answer: Have you been already baptized, or not?

Answer: No.

Celebrant: Do you desire to be baptized and received into the Church of Christ?

Answer: That is my desire.

Celebrant: Why do you so desire?

Answer: That I may be a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven.



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The Promises

Then shall the Celebrant say to the people:

Dearly beloved, you have prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ may be pleased to receive, cleanse, and sanctify *these persons*, and grant unto *them* the blessing of eternal life, which things Christ, for his part, will most surely perform. And now *they*, on *their* part, must promise and vow either *themselves* or through *their* sponsors, that *they* will renounce the devil and all his works, believe in Christ, and obediently keep God's commandments.

Then shall the Celebrant demand of each of the persons to be baptized or of their sponsors.

Do you here, in the presence of God, and of this congregation, renounce the devil and all his works, the pomps and vanity of this wicked world, and all the sinful lusts of the flesh, so that you will not follow nor be led by them?

Answer: I do.

Celebrant: Let us recite the Articles of our Belief.

Then shall be said by the bishop and all the candidates, and the whole congregation, the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of Sins; The Resurrection of the Body, And the Life Everlasting. AMEN.

Then shall the Celebrant demand of each of the persons to be baptized or of their sponsors.

Do you profess this faith?

Answer: I do.

Celebrant: Will you endeavour to keep God's holy will and commandments and to walk in the same all the days of your life?

Answer: I will, God being my helper.

Then shall the Celebrant say to the sponsors of the children:

Will you pray for this child, and take care that *he* may learn and do all these things?

Answer: I will.



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Then shall one of the ministers make the following supplications:

Our help is in the Name of the Lord.
People: **Who hath made heaven and earth.**
Minister: Lord, hear our prayer.
People: **And let our cry come unto thee.**
Minister: O Lord of hosts, before the might of whose presence the armies of evil are put to flight, deliver thy *servants* from the power of Satan. **AMEN.**

Cast out of *their hearts* every evil imagination and everything which exalts itself against the knowledge of thee; and bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.
AMEN.

Grant that *they* may have power and strength to have victory, and to triumph against the devil, the world, and the flesh. **AMEN.**

Grant that *they*, being here dedicated to thee by our office and ministry, may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly rewarded, through thy mercy, O blessed Lord God, who dost live, and govern all things, world without end. **AMEN.**

The Baptism

Celebrant: The Lord be with you;
People: **And with thy Spirit.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts;
People: **We lift them up unto the Lord;**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;
People: **It is meet and right so to do.**

Then shall the Celebrant say:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, for that thy most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ upon the Cross, for the forgiveness of our sins, did shed out of his most precious side both water and blood; and after his glorious Resurrection gave commandment to his disciples, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Regard we beseech thee, the prayers of thy Church. Sanctify this Water to the mystical washing away of sin; and grant that *these persons*, now to be baptized therein, may receive the fulness of thy grace and ever remain in the number of thy faithful and elect children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, throughout all ages, world without end. **AMEN.**



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Then shall the Celebrant take each person to be baptized and shall ask the sponsors the name; and then shall dip him in the Water or pour Water upon him, saying:

N. I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Ghost. **AMEN.**

Then shall the Celebrant say:

We receive this person into the Congregation of Christ's flock, and do *sign *him* with the sign of the Cross, in token that hereafter *he* shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and manfully to fight under his banner against sin, the world, and the devil, and to continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto *his* life's end. **AMEN.**

** Here the Celebrant shall make a Cross upon the person's forehead.*

The Offertory

The churchwardens, or others appointed by them, shall collect the offerings of the people, and reverently bring them to the priest, who shall humbly present and place them upon the Holy Table.

The priest shall at the time of the Offertory present and place on the Lord's Table so much Bread and Wine as he/she shall think sufficient, the same being brought to him/her, if so desired, by the churchwardens or other representatives of the people.

The Bread shall be the best and purest wheat bread, whether leavened or unleavened, and the Wine pure grape wine, with which a little water may be mingled.

Then may be said or sung:

Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel, for ever and ever. All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. All things come of thee and of thine own have we given thee.

Then shall the Celebrant or one of the ministers say:

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours and intend to lead the new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

Then shall this general Confession be made by all those that are minded to receive the Holy Communion, both Celebrant and people humbly kneeling.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive



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us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee in newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Then shall the Celebrant stand up, and turning himself / herself to the people, pronounce this Absolution:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

*The Celebrant shall then proceed with the Holy Eucharist in **Thanksgiving and Consecration.***

The prayer of humble access is to be omitted at this service.

