

Ritual of Baptism for Children

Invitation

Today we have the honor of participating in the baptism of _____
We invite his/her parent(s) _____ (and his/her sponsor) to join us at the baptismal font.

*Hymn (verses 1 and 2)

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise,
Faithfully now God's Praises we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Dead in the tomb with Christ Our King'
One with his rising, freed and forgiven;
Thankfully now God's praises we sing.**

Welcome

We participate today in a ritual that has been transformative in the lives of people for thousands of years. Baptism has many layers of meaning. On one level, baptism is a symbol of dying to our old self and our rising to a new way of life in Christ. On another level, baptism is about becoming apart of the body of Christ. We die to a selfish way of living and become apart of the family of Jesus Christ with many new brothers and sisters called to follow together in the way of Christ who is our head. On yet another level, our baptism is a symbol that we are forgiven, saved by the grace of God not just in the moment of baptism but throughout our lives. Baptism is also a blessing. When Jesus was baptized he came out of the water and the Spirit of God rested upon him and he heard the voice of God saying to him, "You are my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." When we are baptized God says to us, "You are my beloved son (daughter) with whom I am well blessed."

Today we share in the baptism of a child (children). We baptize children because they not only need their parent's love but the protective shelter and love of their church family who will guide them through the trials and temptations of this world to the way of Jesus Christ. We place upon them the seal of God's grace and forgiveness that will be with them through their lives. We tell them that not only are they our beloved child with whom we are please, but also God's beloved child with whom God is pleased. We also remember that Jesus welcome the little children, held them in his arms and pointed to them as the ones who can guide the rest of us to the way of God. One day it is our prayer that they will accept for themselves this gift that is given to them today.

Questions for the Parents

Pastor: Do you desire to have your child(ren) baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parent(s): I/We do.

Pastor: Will you encourage this child/these children to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parent(s): I/We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach this child/these children that he/she/they may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parent(s) and Sponsor(s): I/We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple(s), to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parent(s) and Sponsor(s): I/We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you grow in your own faith and so help your child(ren) to grow in (his/her/their) faith? Will you be a faithful member of Christ's church and so help your child(ren) be a faithful member of Christ's

church? Will you offer the nurture of the Christian church by being in worship and ministry with your child(ren) so that he/she/they may one day affirm their baptism?

Parent(s): I/We do, with the help of God.

***Congregational Assent**

No family can keep these vows alone. They need the extend family of the church to fulfill their vows. Will you as a church family join with these parents in assuming the responsibility to loving support this child (these children) in maturing in faith and love?

People: We promise our love and support.

***Affirmation of Faith**

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the trinity.

Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Will you recommit yourselves to follow in the way of Christ as your Savior and Lord?

People: I commit myself to follow the way of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Blessing of the Water

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in (the one/all) baptized this day that he/she/they may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be world without end. Amen

Baptism

Pastor: What name shall be given to this child?

Pastor: _____ I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer

The Holy Spirit be upon you,

_____, Child of God, Disciple of Christ, Member of the church. Amen.

Presentation

(We take this child (these children) into the church as a symbol of his becoming a part of the body of Christ.)

Hymn (verse 3)

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ our King
Born of one Father, we are his children,
Joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

Closing

This child of God, the Lord places into your hands for safekeeping. Go in peace.