

# THE MINISTRATION OF HOLY BAPTISM TO CHILDREN TO BE USED IN THE CHURCH

*The Minister of the Parish shall often admonish the people that they bring their children to the Church for Baptism as soon as possible after birth; and that except for urgent cause and necessity they seek not to have their children baptized in their houses.*

*It is fitting that Baptism should be administered upon Sundays and other Holy-days at a public Service, so that the Congregation may witness the receiving of the newly baptized into the number of Christ's Church, and also may be reminded of the benefits which they themselves received and the profession which they made in holy Baptism.*

*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 shall suffice. Parents, if necessity so require, may be Sponsors for their own child. The Sponsors shall be baptized persons and able to make the promises required.*

*In the absence of a Priest, it is lawful for a Deacon to baptize children.*

*When there are children to be baptized, the Parents shall give due notice thereof to the Minister of the Parish. He shall thereupon appoint the time for Baptism, which shall be either immediately after the last Lesson at Morning or Evening Prayer, or at such other time as he shall appoint.*

*Before proceeding with the Service, the Priest shall require assurance that the child brought to him for Baptism has not already received this Sacrament.*

*The Priest and the people may remain standing throughout the Baptismal Service.*

*The Priest shall meet the Parents, Sponsors, and the Candidates for Baptism at the Font, which is to be filled with pure water in the presence of the people.*

*A Psalm or Hymn may be said or sung at the Font, or while the Priest comes to the Font.*

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*Standing at the Font, the Priest shall say:*

**D**EARLY beloved in Christ, seeing that God willeth all men to be saved from the fault and corruption of the nature which they inherit, as well as from the actual sins which they commit, and that our Saviour Christ saith, None can enter into the kingdom of God, except he be born anew of Water and of the Holy Spirit, I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that he will grant to *this Child* that which by nature *he* cannot have; that *he* may be baptized with Water and the Holy Spirit, and received into Christ's holy Church, and be made *a living member* of the same.

*Then he shall say one or both of the following prayers:*

**A**LMIGHTY 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 *this Child*; wash *him* and sanctify *him* with the Holy Spirit; that *he* may be received into thy holy Church; and being stedfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may so pass through the dangers of this troublesome world, that finally *he* may come to the land of everlasting life, there to reign with thee world without end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**A**LMIGHTY and immortal God, the aid of all that need, the helper of all that flee to thee for succour: We call upon thee for *this Child*, that *he*, coming to thy holy Baptism, may receive remission of sin by spiritual regeneration. Receive *him*, O Lord, as thou hast promised by thy well-beloved Son, 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

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ask; let us that seek find; open the gate unto us that knock; that *this Child* may enjoy the everlasting benediction of thy heavenly washing, and may come to the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised by him who is the Resurrection and the Life, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Then, the people standing, one of the Ministers shall say:*

Hear the words of the Gospel, written by Saint Mark, in the tenth chapter, beginning at the thirteenth verse.

*People.* Glory be to thee, O Lord.

**T**HEY brought young children to Christ, that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Let the little children come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

*People.* Praise be to thee, O Christ.

*Then the Minister shall say:*

**B**ELOVED, you hear in this Gospel the words of our Saviour Christ, that he commanded the children to be brought unto him; how he blamed those that would have kept them from him; how he exhorteth all men to follow their innocency. You perceive how by his outward gesture and deed he declared his good will toward them; for he embraced them in his arms, he laid his hands upon them, and blessed them. Be ye, therefore, assured that he will likewise favourably receive *this present Child*; that he will

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embrace *him* with the arms of his mercy; that he will give unto *him* the blessing of eternal life, and make *him partaker* of his everlasting kingdom. Wherefore we being thus persuaded *of* the good *will of* our heavenly Father toward *this Child*, declared by his Son Jesus Christ; let us faithfully and devoutly give thanks unto him, and say together:

**A**Lmighty and everlasting God, heavenly Father, We give thee humble thanks That thou hast called us to the knowledge of thy grace, And faith in thee: Increase this knowledge, and confirm this faith in us evermore. Give thy Holy Spirit to *this Child*, That *he* may be born again, And be made *an heir* of everlasting salvation; Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, Now and for ever. Amen.

## THE PROMISES

*Then shall the Priest say to the Sponsors:*

**D**EARLY beloved, you have prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ may be pleased to receive, cleanse, and sanctify *this Child*, and grant unto *him* the blessing of eternal life, which things Christ, for his part, will most surely perform. And now *this Child*, on *his* part, must through *you, his Sponsors*, promise and vow that *he* will renounce the devil and all his works, believe in Christ, and obediently keep God's commandments.

I demand therefore:

**D**O you, in the name of this Child, renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires

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of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that you will not follow nor be led by them?

*Answer.* I do.

*Priest.* Let us recite the Articles of our Belief.

*Then shall be said by the Priest and the Godparents, 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.

*Note that the words in the Creed He descended into hell are considered as words of the same meaning as He went into the place of departed spirits.*

*Then shall the Priest say to the Sponsors:*

**D**O you, in the name of this Child, profess this faith?

*Answer.* I do.

**D**O you, in the name of this Child, seek Baptism into this faith?

*Answer.* I do.

**D**O you, in the name of this Child, acknowledge the duty to keep God's holy will and commandments, walking stedfastly in the Way of Christ?

*Answer.* I do.

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**W**ILL you pray for this Child, and take care that *he* may learn and do all these things?

*Answer.* I will.

*Then shall the Priest make the following supplications, and after each of them the Congregation shall answer Amen.*

**O**MERCIFUL God, grant that all sinful desires may die in *this Child*, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *him*.  
*Amen.*

GRANT that *he* may have power and strength to have victory, and to triumph against the devil, the world, and the flesh. *Amen.*

GRANT that whosoever here shall begin to be of thy flock may evermore continue in the same.  
*Amen.*

GRANT that whosoever is 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.*

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*Priest.*

**T**HE Lord be with you;  
*People.* And with thy spirit.

*Priest.* Lift up your hearts;

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

*Priest.* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;

*People.* It is meet and right so to do.

*Then shall the Priest say:*

**I**T 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,

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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.

**R**EGARD, we beseech thee, the prayers of thy Church. Sanctify this Water to the mystical washing away of sin; and grant that *this Child*, 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.*

*The Priest, taking the Child into his arms, or by the right hand, shall say to the Sponsors:*

Name this Child.

*And then, naming him after them, he 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 Priest say:*

**W**E receive this Child 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 Priest shall make a Cross upon the Child's forehead.*

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*Then shall the Priest say:*

**S**EEING now, dearly beloved brethren, that *this Child* is regenerate and grafted into the body of Christ's Church, let us give thanks unto Almighty God for these benefits, and with one accord make our prayers unto him, that *this Child* may lead the rest *of his* life according to this beginning.

*Then shall be said by all:*

**O**UR 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.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

*Then shall the Priest say:*

**W**E yield thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that it hath pleased thee to regenerate *this Child* with thy Holy Spirit, to receive *him* for thine own *Child* by adoption, and to make *him a member of thy* holy Church. Grant, O Lord, that being baptized into the death *of* Christ, *he* may also be made *partaker* of his resurrection, so that serving thee here in newness *of* life, *he* may finally, with all thy holy Church, inherit thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## THE DUTIES

*The Priest shall say to the Sponsors and Parents:*

**D**EARLY beloved, forasmuch as you have brought *this Child* to be baptized into the family of Christ's Church, and have promised



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that *he* shall renounce the devil and all his works, and shall believe in God, and serve him: you must remember that it is your part and duty to see that *he* be taught what a solemn vow, promise and profession *he has* here made by you, and be instructed in all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health.

**U**SE all diligence therefore to see that *he* be virtuously brought up to lead a godly and a Christian life; and to that end you should teach *him* to pray, and bring *him* to take *his* part in public worship.

**T**AKE care that *he* be taught the Creed, the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer, and be further instructed in the Church Catechism; and then that *he* be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him; so that *he* may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, and may come to receive the holy Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ, and go forth into the world to serve God faithfully in the fellowship of his Church.

**R**EMEMBER always that Baptism represents unto us our profession; which is, to follow our Saviour Christ, and to be made like unto him; that as he died and rose again for us, so should we, who are baptized, die from sin, and rise again unto righteousness, continually mortifying all evil desires, and daily increasing in all virtue and godliness of living.

**W**ILL you be faithful in the fulfilment of these duties?

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

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*Then the Priest may say one or both of the following prayers:*

**A**LMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, whose beloved Son did share in Nazareth the life of an earthly home: Bless, we beseech thee, the *home of this Child*, and grant wisdom and understanding to all who shall have the care of *him*, that *he* may grow up in stedfast love and reverence of thy holy Name; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**G**RANT, O Lord, that *this Child* may by thy mercy grow in health of body and mind, and serve thee faithfully according to thy will all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Then shall follow Benedictus or Nunc Dimittis, if the Office has been used at Morning or Evening Prayer. In that case the Canticle shall be followed by the Mutual Salutation, after which the Priest shall say, Let us pray, and proceed to the Collect of the day and the other prayers, and so end Morning or Evening Prayer.*

*When this Office is used as a separate Service, the Priest may say:*

**T**HE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*