



THE RITE OF BAPTISM

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In holy baptism the triune God delivers us from the forces of evil, puts our sinful self to death, gives us new birth, adopts us as children, and makes us members of the body of Christ, the church.

The Christian community at worship celebrates God's gift of baptism in a number of ways. The sacrament itself normally takes place in the midst of the worshiping assembly as a sign that in baptism we are made one with Christ and with the whole people of God. On behalf of the whole church, we promise support to new sisters and brothers, confess the faith with them, and welcome them into the body of Christ. Water connected to the Word—God's saving promise in Jesus Christ—is at the center of the baptismal celebration.

Although a person is baptized once, the gift of baptism continues throughout a Christian's life. Instruction in the faith for a life of discipleship is part of the preparation of those who are to be baptized or their parents and sponsors. The ongoing nurture of that faith is part of the congregation's ministries of formation, education, service, and evangelical witness.

PRESENTATION

The Holy Spirit calls and invites us to receive God's grace. Sponsors present those to be baptized, and we promise our support.

God, who is rich in mercy...

Sponsors for each candidate, in turn, present the candidates:

I present Luca for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves. They reply: I do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors. They reply: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Luca and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

The assembly stands.

*PROFESSION OF FAITH

Only by God's grace can we renounce the forces of evil and the power of sin. With the whole church, we confess our faith in the triune God.

The presiding minister addresses the parents, sponsors of young children and the entire assembly.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
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 to judge the living and the dead.**

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.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

With thanksgiving, God's saving deeds are remembered. Dying with Christ in baptism, the child of God is raised to new life through water and the Word.

Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving. At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks...

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

Additional signs proclaim the meaning of baptism. We pray that the gift of the Holy Spirit sustain the baptized. The baptized are marked with the cross of Christ forever.

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

Amen.

You belong to Christ,
in whom you have been baptized.

Alleluia.

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Luca with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Luca, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

The baptized are called to follow Jesus, the light of the world. We welcome new companions in the mission of God. A lighted candle will be given to a sponsor as a representative of the congregation says:

Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

Those who have gathered at the font may return to their places.