

An Order of Service for Infant Baptism

1. The minister welcomes those who have brought children to be baptised.

When Jesus Christ had risen from the dead, he commanded his followers to make disciples of all nations, preach the gospel and to baptise those who believe. They obeyed his command and we read of the apostle Peter preaching in these words, "Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Children are baptised as a sign of God's generous love. Parents and godparents who have responded to that love come to bring their children for baptism. Before this congregation the parents have to express their own trust and commitment to the promises of God, and their intention to bring up their children in the faith and practice of Christ. When they are able to do so children must themselves express their faith in God. They must turn away from sin and put their trust in Jesus Christ.

We welcome (child), with your parents (... and ...), and godparents and family. We give thanks for you, and pray that you may be faithful to the solemn promises you make today.

Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy, as I pray.

Lord God, you created this world, and made us in your image. Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death. Rescue us from slavery to sin.

Lord God, by your Spirit, you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another. Bring your love and freedom into our lives.

2. The minister invites the parents and godparents to stand, and he addresses them as follows

I invite (child's) parents, (... and ...), and his/her godparents, (... and ...) to come forward.

Are you yourself following Jesus Christ, trusting in God's gracious promises?

I am.

Are you willing to sponsor (child), answering for him/her now and accepting responsibility for his/her Christian upbringing in the life of the Church?

I am willing.

(Child) has been brought for baptism. I ask you to profess the faith into which he/she is to be baptised and nurtured.

The baptismal party join together in saying the Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived of 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 from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

The minister says to the parents and godparents:

Do you profess this faith?

I do.

Will you follow Jesus faithfully, and obey his commands throughout your life?

I will, with God's help.

By your own prayers and example, by your friendship and love, will you encourage (child) in the life and faith of Jesus?

I will, with God's help

Will you each, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

I will, with God's help

3. The minister says to the congregation

You have heard your friends make these solemn promises. Will you support them in keeping these promises?

We will

4. The minister and baptism party move down to the font

Heavenly Father,

We give thanks that it is with water that you refresh and sustain the earth and all the things you have made.

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John and identification with us.

We give you thanks that through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and nullified death.

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim him.

5. The child is baptised by pouring water.

(Child) I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The minister continues

I sign you with the sign of the cross, to show that it is to the crucified Christ that you are to be faithful until your life's end. **Amen.**

The minister says

Merciful God, please give to (child's) parents, godparents and their families the desire to share with him/her what you have made known in your holy gospel. May he/she grow to be a disciple of your Son: fighting the good fight, finishing the race, keeping the faith. Please bring him/her into all the joys of your eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The minister lights a candle from the Paschal Candle. Handing it to the parents he says

I give you this candle as a symbol of how God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The minister hands the family the baptism Bible and says

I give you this Bible on behalf of our church because through it God speaks and in it is the true testimony to his Son.

Members of the baptismal party pray while still at the font

A prayer for all who are baptised into Christ:

Gracious God, you have brought us from death to life; we dedicate ourselves to you. Produce in us the fruit of your Spirit.

Equip us to serve your people and advance your gospel in the world.

Enable us to live holy and righteous lives and to please you in all that we do; in the name of Jesus our Saviour. **Amen.**

A prayer for parents and godparents:

Heavenly Father, we pray for the parents and godparents of (child).

Give them the spirit of wisdom and love, so that they may teach him/her by word

and example to know you.

Grant them in their home the joy that comes from knowing you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**