
THE ORDER FOR BAPTISM

Here the minister shall exhort:

Dearly Beloved, for as much as all persons are conceived and born in sin; and that which is born of the flesh is flesh and they that are in the flesh cannot please God but live in sin, committing actual transgressions, and our Savior Christ said that none can enter into the kingdom of God except they be regenerated and born anew of water and the Holy Spirit; I beseech you to call upon the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of His bounteous goodness He will grant unto this person that which by nature **s/he** cannot have; that **s/he** be baptized with water and the Holy Spirit, and received into Christ's Holy Church, and be made a lively member of the same.

Let us now pray earnestly for **s/he** who has come to be baptized...

— *A pause shall take place so that the congregation may pray for the candidates* —

Then the minister shall pray:

Almighty and Immortal God, the Aider of all that need, the Helper of all that flee to You for succor, the Life of them that believe in the resurrection of the dead: we call upon You for this person, that they coming to Your holy baptism may receive the remission of their sins, by spiritual regeneration. Receive them, O Lord, as You have promised by Your well beloved Son, saying, "*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*" (Matthew 7:7) So give now unto us that ask, let us that seek find, open the gate unto us that knock, that this person may enjoy the everlasting benediction of Your heavenly washing, and may come to the eternal kingdom which You have promised by Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

After which the minister shall continue to pray:

Almighty and Everlasting God, Heavenly Father, we give You humble thanks, for You have seen fit to call us to the knowledge of Your grace and faith in You, increase this knowledge and confirm this faith in us evermore. Give Your Holy Spirit to these persons that they may be born again and made heirs of everlasting salvation, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit now and forever. **AMEN.**

Then the congregation shall stand up, and the minister shall say:

Hear the words of the gospel written by St. John in the third chapter, beginning at the first verse: *Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."*

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." (John 3:1-8, NIV84)

Then the minister shall speak to the persons to be baptized in this way:

Well Beloved, who have come here desiring to receive holy baptism, you have heard how the congregation has prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would see fit to receive you, and bless you, to release you of your sins, to give you the kingdom of heaven and everlasting life. And our Lord Jesus Christ has promised in his holy Word to grant all those things we have prayed for, which promise He, for His part, will mostly surely keep and perform.

Wherefore, after this promise made by Christ you must also faithfully, on your part, promise in the presence of this whole congregation that you will renounce the devil and his works, and constantly believe God's word, and obediently keep his commandments.

Then the minister shall demand of each of the persons to be baptized:

Minister: Q. #1) Do you renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the flesh; so that you will not follow, nor be led by them?

Candidate:

I renounce them all.

Minister: Q. #2) Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord; and that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; and he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; that he arose again the third day; that he ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from thence forth he shall come again at the end of the world to judge the living and the dead?

And do you believe in the Holy Ghost, the Church Universal, the communion of the saints, the remission of sin, the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life after death?

Candidate:

All this I steadfastly believe.

Minister: Q. #3) Will you be baptized in this faith?

Candidate:

This is my desire.

Minister: Q. #4) Will you then obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of your life?

Candidate:

I will endeavor to do so, God being my helper.

THE COLLECTS

Then shall the minister pray, the congregation responding with the "AMEN!":

O merciful God, grant that the Old Adam in this person may be so buried that the new creature may be raised in them. **AMEN!**

Grant that **s/he** may have power and strength to have victory and triumph against the devil, the world, and the flesh. **AMEN!**

Grant that **s/he** being here dedicated to You by our offices and ministry, may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly regarded, through Your mercy, O blessed Lord God, who does live and govern all things, world without end. **AMEN!**

Almighty, Everlasting God, whose most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins, did shed out of his most precious side both water and blood, and gave commandment to His disciples that they should go teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, regard we beseech you the supplications of this congregation. Sanctify this water for this Holy Sacrament (**here the Minister places her/his hand on the font**), and grant that the person now to be baptized may receive the fullness of Your grace and ever remain in the number of your faithful and elect children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN!**

Then shall the minister take each person to be baptized by the right hand and place him/her conveniently by the font, and according to her/his discretion shall ask their Christian Name, and then sprinkle or pour water upon him/her (or if one desires, immersion in water), saying:

(CHRISTIAN NAME ONLY), I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST. AMEN.

Then shall the minister, candidates and congregation lift up the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, which 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 those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Then let the minister conclude with an extemporaneous prayer.