



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

- 1. Three services, related to the Baptism of the candidates, are presented as one.*
- 2. A hymn is sung as the candidates gather before the congregation.*

CONFIRMATION

- 3. Confirmation marks the completion of the congregation's program of confirmation ministry, a period of instruction in the Christian faith as confessed in the teachings of the Lutheran Church. Those who have completed this program were made members of the Church in Baptism. Confirmation includes a public profession of the faith into which the candidates were baptized, thus underscoring God's action in their Baptism.*
- 4. A representative of the congregation presents the candidates to the minister:*

These persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism.

- 5. Their names are read.*

☒ Dear friends, we rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

- 6. Christians from other denominations become members of the Lutheran Church through reception into the local congregation. In Baptism they were made Christians; now they become members of the Lutheran Church.*
- 7. A representative of the congregation presents the candidates to the minister:*

These persons have come to us from *other churches*, and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism.

- 8. Their names are read.*

☒ Dear friends, we rejoice to receive you, members of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, into our fellowship in the Gospel.

RESTORATION TO MEMBERSHIP

9. *Baptized persons who desire again to participate actively in the life of the Church are restored to membership through affirmation of their Baptism.*

10. *A representative of the congregation presents the candidates to the minister:*

These persons desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism as a sign of their renewed participation in the life and work of the Church of Christ.

11. *Their names are read.*

P Dear friends, we rejoice that you have returned to the household of God to claim again the eternal inheritance which is your birthright in Holy Baptism.

12. *The minister addresses those who have been presented.*

P Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been [nourished at his holy table and] called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

R I do.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

R I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

* Or, He descended to the dead.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

R 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

Stand

13. THE PRAYERS are said.

A Let us pray for those who are affirming their Baptism, and for all the baptized everywhere:

That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death:
Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Other prayers may be added.

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (238)

C Amen

Sit

14. The minister addresses those making affirmation.

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear his Word and share in his supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person answers in turn.

R I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P Let us pray.

15. Those making affirmation kneel. A brief silence is kept so that prayer may be made for them.

P Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these *men and women* your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: 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; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. (274)

C Amen

FOR CONFIRMATION ONLY

16. The presiding minister lays both hands on the head of each person:

P Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in _____ name the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm *his/her* faith, guide *his/her* life, empower *him/her* in *his/her* serving, give *him/her* patience in suffering, and bring *him/her* to everlasting life. (275)

Each person answers: "Amen."

17. They stand. The presiding minister exchanges the peace with each of them. They exchange the peace with one another and other members of the congregation:

Peace be with you.

R Peace be with you.

18. All return to their places. The service continues with the Offering.