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# HOLY BAPTISM

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- 1. While a baptismal hymn is sung, the candidates, sponsors, and parents gather at the font.*
- 2. The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.*

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

- 3. A sponsor for each candidate, in turn, presents the candidate with these or similar words:*

I present \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

- 4. The minister addresses those candidates who are able to answer for themselves:*

\_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, do you desire to be baptized?

I do.

- 5. The minister addresses the sponsors and parents.*

- 6. When only young children are baptized, the minister says:*

In Christian love you have presented *these children* for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring *them* to the services of God's house, and teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As *they grow* in years, you should place in *their* hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for *their* instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of *their* Baptism and in communion with the Church, *they* may lead *godly lives* until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

I do.

OR

*7. When older children and adults are baptized also, the minister says:*

**P** In Christian love you have presented *these people* for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully care for *them* and help *them* in every way as God gives you opportunity, that *they* may bear witness to the faith we profess, and that, living in the covenant of *their* Baptism and in communion with the Church, *they* may lead *godly lives* until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

**R** I do.

**Stand**

*8. When baptisms are celebrated within the Holy Communion, The Prayers may be said at this time, with special reference to those baptized.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

*9. The minister begins the thanksgiving.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**P** Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that *those who are* here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of *all those who are* cleansed by this water and bring *them* forth as *inheritors* of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. (245)

**C** Amen

*10. The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.*

**P** 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.

**P** 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?

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

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

**C** 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.

**P** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C** 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

*11. The minister baptizes each candidate.*

**P** \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_, I baptize you in  
the name of the Father,

*The minister pours water on the candidate's head.*

**P** and of the Son,

*The minister pours water on the candidate's head a second time.*

**P** and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

*The minister pours water on the candidate's head a third time.*

**P** \_\_\_\_\_ name \_\_\_\_\_ is baptized in  
the name of the Father,

*The minister pours water on the candidate's head.*

**P** and of the Son,

*The minister pours water on the candidate's head a second time.*

**P** and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

*The minister pours water on the candidate's head a third time.*

\*Or, He descended to the dead.

## Sit

12. *A psalm or hymn may be sung as the minister and the baptismal group go before the altar.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

13. *Those who have been baptized kneel. Sponsors or parents holding young children stand. The minister lays both hands on the head of each of the baptized and prays for the Holy Spirit:*

**P** God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>: 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. (246)

**C** Amen

14. *The 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:*

**P** \_\_\_\_\_<sup>name</sup>, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

*The sponsor or the baptized responds: "Amen."*

15. *After all have received the sign of the cross, they stand.*

16. *A lighted candle may be given to each of the baptized (to the sponsor of a young child) by a representative of the congregation who says:*

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

17. *When small children are baptized, this prayer may be said.*

**P** O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the *fathers* and *mothers* of *these children*. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their *children*. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their *children* the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (247)

**C** Amen

## Stand

18. *The ministers and the baptismal group turn toward the congregation; a representative of the congregation says:*

Through Baptism God has made *these* new *sisters and brothers* members of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

**C** We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.

*19. The ministers may exchange the peace with the baptized, with their sponsors and parents, and with the congregation:*

Peace be with you.

**R** Peace be with you.

*20. All return to their places.*

*21. The service continues with the Offering.*