

HOLY BAPTISM:
A New Setting

Adapted from
Evangelical Lutheran Worship

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PRESENTATION

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font or at any other location where water is plentiful. The sound of moving water is to be heard by all who are gathered for the baptism. If the rite is performed in doors with a font that does not incorporate flowing water, a recording of moving water should be played through out the rite. (A special recording of water is available for use in this rite.) The assembly should gather in a circle around the candidates, sponsors, parents, and the minister and the font. In the case of a lakeside or riverbank baptism, the assembly should encircle the candidates, sponsors, parents, and minister as much as possible while still allowing open access to the body of water.

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words:

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ and anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

or

In baptism our gracious, heavenly Creator frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity with fragile bodies; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God, healed in Spirit, and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

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

I present name/s for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses candidates who are able to answer for themselves.

Name, called by the Holy Spirit,
trusting in the grace and love of God,
do you desire to be baptized into the diverse and beautiful body of Christ?

Each candidate responds: I do.

The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves.

Called by the Holy Spirit and trusting in the grace and love of God,
do you desire to have *your children* baptized into the diverse and beautiful body of Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring *your children* to receive the gift of baptism,
you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *them* among God's faithful people,
bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in *their* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *them* in faith and prayer,
so that *your children* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *your children* grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *these persons* in the Christian faith
as you are empowered by God's Spirit,
and to help *them* live in the covenant of baptism
and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support name/s
and pray for *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.

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

Do you renounce evil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

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

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God, and that destroy our unity as the body of Christ?

Response: I renounce them.

OR *in place of the three separate renunciations above:*

Do you renounce evil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God, and that destroy our unity as the body of Christ?

Response: I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God, the Creator?

**I believe in God, the 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,
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 Creator,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in 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.**

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The presiding minister leads the following or another form of the thanksgiving.
God be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us give thanks to our loving God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One of the following texts is read by the presiding minister to the gathered assembly.

I

Blessed are you, O God,
maker of all things.
Your voice thundered over the waters at creation.
You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys
to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom.
In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock,
and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection,
your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom.
The floods shall not overwhelm us,
and the deep shall not swallow us up,
for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise.
He sends us to make disciples,
baptizing in the name of the Creator, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon our fragile bodies;
wash away sin in this cleansing water;
clothe the baptized with Christ;
and claim your daughters and sons,
no longer slave and free,
no longer male and female,
but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

or

II

Blessed are you, holy God.
You are the creator of the waters of the earth.
You are the fire of rebirth.
You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel.
You breathe life into our dry bones and fragile bodies.
Your Son Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us
that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,
and breathe new life into those who are here baptized.
By your Spirit adopt us all as your children,
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

or

III

Holy God, mighty God, gracious God:

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.

Blessed be God now and forever.

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.

Blessed be God now and forever.

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 Provider, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God now and forever.

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.

Amen.

or

IV

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty,

you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring,

you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.

Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters:

Noah and the animals survive the flood,

Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea,

and they drink from your gushing rock.

Naaman washes his leprosy away,

and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At this font, holy God, we pray:
Praise to you for the water of baptism
and for your Word that saves us in this water.
Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.
Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.
Wash away the sin within us.

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.

BAPTISM

The presiding minister baptizes each candidate. The candidate is immersed into the water, water is poured on the candidate's head, or the candidate may be immersed once and water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

Name, I baptize you in the name of God, the Creator,

*The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:
and of the Son,*

*The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:
and of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen.

OR

The candidate is immersed into the water, water is poured on the candidate's head, or the candidate may be immersed once and water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

Name is baptized in the name of God, the Creator,

*The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:
and of the Son,*

*The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:
and of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen.

After each baptism, the assembly may respond with one of the following, a sung alleluia, or another acclamation.

Blessed be God, the source of all life,
the word of salvation,
the spirit of mercy.

Clothed with Christ in baptism, the newly baptized may receive a baptismal garment.

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.

Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:

Sustain name/s 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 God,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

* love may be used in the place of fear.

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:

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

Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me
will have the light of life.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. 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 through the waters of Baptism:
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 and encircled the participants may return to their places. An acclamation (#209-215), psalm, or hymn may be sung as the newly baptized are introduced to the assembly.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession, or, if baptism has taken place in the gathering rite, with the greeting. If the baptism has taken place outside, a benediction should be issued and the service concluded. If the rite ends before the prerecorded music comes to an end, the volume should be slowly turned down until the recording is no longer heard.

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