**Baptism and Affirmation of Baptism**

**A Combined Order**

The following order is provided for the convenience of worship leaders when it is necessary to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism and at the same service to conduct an Affirmation of Baptism for baptized individuals who are making a public profession of faith for the first time. Others who are transferring their membership from one congregation to another may be received at the same time but care should be taken to avoid too many variations. The centrality of the Sacrament of Baptism as the means by which children and adults are received into the church should be maintained. The Affirmation of Baptism is not a sacrament but is an outcome of baptism and an important milestone on the Christian journey.

*Following the sermon, the minister moves to the baptismal font before saying:*

Some will come to receive the sacrament of baptism. Others, having been baptized, will affirm their baptism by making public their profession of faith.

Baptism is not of our doing or deserving.

It is a gift from God.

In the sacrament of baptism

the church recognizes God's covenant of grace.

We receive God's gift with reverent joy

and respond in faith and obedience.

Remember the words of Peter on the day of Pentecost:

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven;

and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

For the promise is for you,

for your children,
and for all who are far away,
every one whom the Lord our God calls." *Acts 2:38-39.*

*A hymn or psalm may be sung while candidates for baptism, sponsors and parents if appropriate, assemble at the baptismal font. An elder or other representative of the congregation may lead the procession to the font, carrying a large pitcher of water.*

*Those who will affirm their baptism may stand before the table or in a line a little distance from the baptismal font.*

*The minister says:*

Hear the words of the risen Christ.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father

and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you;

and remember, I am with you always,

to the close of the age." *Matt. 28:18-20.*

Obeying the command of Jesus Christ

and believing in his promises

the church baptizes those whom the Lord our God calls.

God acts for us in baptism

as God has acted for our salvation

from the beginning of time.

By the waters of baptism

and the power of the Holy Spirit

God claims us

and calls each one by name.

God unites us to Christ in his death and resurrection

and grafts us into the body of Christ

as members of the church.

God washes us clean by forgiving our sin;

commissions us to be a royal priesthood with Christ

in his ministry to the world;

empowers us to live in newness of life as people of the Word;

and invites us to be renewed at the Lord's Table

until we feast with him in glory.

By grace you have been saved through faith,

and this is not of your own doing;

it is the gift of God. *Eph. 2:8.*

**The Presentation**

*The minister continues:*

Who comes to receive the gift of baptism?

*An elder presents each candidate for baptism saying:*

On behalf of session,

I present \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_,

to receive the sacrament of baptism.

*The minister says:*

Who comes to affirm their baptism?

*An elder presents those affirming their baptism by saying*:

On behalf of session,

I present \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

who have been baptized and are members of the body of Christ. They have been nurtured within the Christian community and instructed in the belief and practice of the church.

In making public profession of their faith, they desire to affirm the meaning of their baptism, and to claim the rights and responsibilities associated with membership in the congregation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

ADULTS AND OLDER CHILDREN

*The minister addresses candidates who are seeking baptism by making their own profession of faith.*

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

**I do**.

PARENTS OF INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

*The minister addresses parent(s) of infants and younger children*:

Do you desire that \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ be baptized?

**I do.**

YOUTH AND ADULTS AFFIRMING BAPTISM

*The minister addresses those who are making a public profession of faith.*

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

you stand before God

and this company of God's people

to affirm the covenant God made with you at your baptism,

to acknowledge your growth in grace

and to assume responsibility

as a disciple of Jesus Christ

in this congregation and the world.

Are you ready to make public your profession of faith?

**I am ready**.

**Renunciation and Affirmation**

*The minister addresses adult or young candidates for baptism, the parents of infant candidates, and those who are affirming their baptism.*

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God

who has been faithful to us in all generations,

do you turn away from sin,

renounce evil and all powers in the world

that rebel against God

or oppose God's rule of justice and love?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin which separate you from the love of God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ,

accepting him as Lord and Saviour,

trusting in his grace and love?

**I do.**

Do you desire, in dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit,

to mature as a Christian in the church,

to seek the guidance of Christ as you listen for his Word,

to celebrate his death and life at the table he provides,

and to engage in his mission to the world?

**I do**.

*The minister addresses parents of young candidates for baptism only*:

Do you promise to raise your child (*children*) in the love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ within the home and the fellowship of the church?

**I do**.

*The minister asks the congregation to stand and questions them and the sponsors saying:*

Do you, on behalf of the church of Jesus Christ,

promise to guide and nurture \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

by word and deed,

with love and in prayer,

encouraging them to follow the way of Christ

and to be (a) faithful member(s) of his church?

**We do.**

*An alternative form of the creed is on page 127.*  *The minister addresses all present, saying:*

Let us profess our faith in the words that are common to the holy, catholic church.

**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 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 Father,**

 **and 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.**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*The minister will first administer the sacrament to those being baptized, both infants and adults. Water is poured visibly and audibly into the font before the prayer begins.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise**.

We give you thanks, O gracious God,

for the gifts of water and your Spirit.

In the beginning,

when your Spirit moved over the waters,

you gave order and life to your planet earth.

By the waters of the flood you cleansed the earth,

and established with Noah and his family

a new beginning for all people.

In the time of Moses, you led your people

out of slavery through the waters of the sea,

making covenant with them in a new land.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus Christ,

who was formed in the water of a woman's womb.

In the water of Jordan, Jesus was baptized

and anointed by your Holy Spirit.

 [In his ministry to the world,

 Jesus offered living water to the woman of Samaria,

 washed the feet of his disciples,

 and sent them forth to baptize all

 nations by water and the Spirit.

And now, with your people of all times and places,

 we wait with eager longing

 as we look for the city of God,

 from which will flow the river of life

 for the healing of the nations.] *Rom. 8; Rev. 22.*

Gracious God;

by the gift of water and your Holy Spirit

you sustain all life.

*The prayer continues as the minister raises a handful of water and pours it into the font.*

Almighty God;

by the power of your Holy Spirit,

and by the sign of this water,

you cleanse from sin through the death of Jesus Christ,

those who receive this sacrament;

you raise them to new life through his resurrection,

and you graft them into his body, the church.

Pour out your Spirit upon \_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

that they may have power to do your will

and continue forever as (a) servant(s) of Christ

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit

be all honour and glory

now and forever. **Amen**.

**The Act of Baptizing**

*All candidates for baptism except infants may kneel. The minister pours or sprinkles generous amounts of water on each head, while saying:*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I baptize you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you are baptized,

in the name of the Father, **OR** In the name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. and of the Holy Spirit.

*The minister lays a hand on the head of the baptized person saying:*

May the Spirit of God dwell in you

and uphold you, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Declaration and Welcome**

*Following the baptism and blessing, with all standing, the minister says:*

See what love God has given us

that we should be called the children of God;

and so we are.

 *I John 3:1.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

you are now received by Christ's appointment

into the holy, catholic church.

Through baptism, God has made you

(*a*) member(*s*) of the household of God

to share with Christ in the priesthood of all believers.

Remember your baptism and give thanks.

Be one with us in the church.

*Those who have been baptized, both infants and adults, will remain at the baptismal font together with parents and sponsors as the minister moves to join those who have affirmed their baptism by a public profession of faith.*

**Thanksgiving and Intercession**

*The minister leads in prayer as follows:*

Gracious God;

we praise you for calling us to be your people,

and for gathering us to be the church, the body of Christ.

We thank you for leading \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

to this time and place

in affirmation of your gifts to *them* in baptism.

Together, may we live in your Spirit,

grow in faith, hope and love,

and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ,

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit

we give honour and glory, now and forever.  **Amen**.

**The Blessing**

*Each person who has made a public profession of faith comes forward in turn (and kneels) for a blessing. The minister places a hand on the head of each and prays, using one of the following.*

Holy God, defend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with your grace,

that they may daily increase in the gifts of the Spirit, serving Jesus Christ both now and forever.

*Response*: **Amen**.

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, child of God,

may you live and walk in the Spirit,

increasing daily in the gifts of love,

joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control

as one who belongs to Christ Jesus, our Lord.

 *Response*: **Amen** *Based on Gal. 5:22-25.*

**OR**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

may the God of hope

fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

so that by the power of the Holy Spirit

you may abound in hope,

in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*Response*: **Amen**. *Based on Rom. 15:13.*

**OR**

Was omitted online due to copyright see page 548.

**Greeting**

*The minister and congregation may say together:*

**Come, grow with us into Christ who is our head.**

**"There is one body and one Spirit,**

**just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,**

**one Lord, one faith, one baptism,**

**one God and Father of us all,**

**who is above all and through all and in all.**" *Eph. 4:4-6.*

**The Charge**

*The minister, elder or other leader, may charge all who have been baptized or have affirmed their baptism in the following or similar words.*

Was omitted online due to copyright see page 547.

*A sign of Peace may be exchanged with all:*

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you**.

*When all have returned to their places, the service continues.*