

*Ceremony
of
Baptism*



RECEPTION OF THE CHILD

The people may sing a psalm or a hymn while the celebrating priest goes to the entrance of the church or to that part of the church where the parents and godparents are waiting with the child.

The celebrant greets all present. Then he questions the parents:

Celebrant: What name do you give your child?

Parents: N.

Celebrant: What do you ask of God's Church for N.?

Parents: Baptism.

The celebrant addresses the parents in these or similar words:

Celebrant: You have asked to have your child baptised. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

Parents: We do.

Then the celebrant turns to the godparents:

Celebrant: Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?

Godparents: We are.

Celebrant: N., the Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In its name I claim you for Christ our Saviour by the sign of his cross. I now trace the cross on your forehead, and invite your parents (and godparents) to do the same.

The celebrant signs the child on the forehead, in silence.

Then he invites the parents (and the godparents) to do the same.

CELEBRATION OF GOD'S WORD



A scripture reading & psalm is read

After the reading the celebrant gives a short homily.

Intercessions

(The Bidding Prayers)

Celebrant: *My dear brothers and sisters, let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ to look lovingly on this child who is to be baptised, on his (her) parents and godparents, and on all the baptised.*

Reader: By the mystery of your death and resurrection, bathe this child in light; give him (her) the new life of baptism and welcome him (her) into your holy Church. Lord, hear us.

All: *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Reader: Through baptism and confirmation, make him (her) your faithful follower and a witness to your gospel. Lord, hear us.

All: *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Reader: Lead him (her) by a holy life to the joys of God's kingdom. Lord, hear us.

All: *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Reader: Make the lives of his (her) parents and godparents examples of faith to inspire this child. Lord, hear us.

All: *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Reader: Keep his (her) family always in your love. **Lord, hear us.**

All: *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Reader: Renew the grace of our baptism in each one of us. **Lord, hear us.**

All: *Lord, graciously hear us.*

The celebrant next invites all present to invoke the saints.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, *pray for us.*

Saint John the Baptist, *pray for us.*

Saint Joseph, *pray for us.*

Saint Peter and Saint Paul, *pray for us.*

The names of other saints may be added.

The litany concludes:

All holy men and women, *pray for us.*

PRAYER OF EXORCISM AND ANOINTING BEFORE BAPTISM

After the invocation, the celebrant says:

Celebrant: Almighty and ever - living God, you sent your only Son into the world to cast out the power of Satan, spirit of evil, to rescue people from the kingdom of darkness, and bring him into the splendour of your kingdom of light.

Celebrant: We pray for this child: set him (her) free from original sin, make him (her) a temple of your glory, and send your Holy Spirit to dwell in him (her). (We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The celebrant continues:

Celebrant: We anoint you with the oil of salvation in the name of Christ our Saviour; may He strengthen you with his power, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

He anoints the child on the breast with the oil of catechumens.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

All proceed to the Baptistry. A hymn or psalm may be sung.

Celebrant: My dear brothers and sisters, we now ask God to give this child new life in abundance through water and the Holy Spirit.

Blessing and Invocation of God over Baptismal Water

(Other forms of this blessing may be used)

Celebrant: Praise to you, almighty God and Father, for you have created water to cleanse and to give life.

All: *Blessed be God.*

Celebrant: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son, for you offered yourself on the cross, that in the blood and water flowing from your side, and through your death and resurrection, the Church might be born.

All: *Blessed be God.*

Celebrant: Praise to you, God the Holy Spirit, for you anointed Christ at his baptism in the waters of Jordan, so that we might all be baptised into you.

All: *Blessed be God.*

Celebrant: Come to us, Lord, Father of all, and make holy this water which you have created, so that all who are baptised in it may be washed clean of sin and be born again to live as your children.

All: *Hear us, Lord.*

Celebrant: Make this water holy, Lord, so that all who are baptised into Christ's death and resurrection by this Water may become more perfectly like your Son.

All: *Hear us, Lord.*

The celebrant touches the water with his right hand and continues:

Lord, make holy this Water which you have created, so that all those whom you have chosen may be born again by the power of the Holy Spirit, and may take their place among your holy people.

All: *Hear us, Lord.*

If the baptismal water has already been blessed, the celebrant omits the invocation

Come to us, Lord and those which follow it, and says:

You have called your child, N., to this cleansing Water that he (she) may share in the faith of your Church and have eternal life. By the mystery of this consecrated water lead him (her) to a new and spiritual birth. (We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Celebrant: Dear parents and godparents:

You have come here to present this child for baptism. By water and the Holy Spirit he (she) is to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love.

On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring him (her) up in the practice of the faith. See that the divine life which God gives him (her) is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in his (her) heart.

If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own baptism. reject sin; profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith in which this child is about to be baptised.

The celebrant questions the parents and godparents:

Celebrant: Do you reject Satan?

Parents and godparents: *I do.*

Celebrant: And all his works?

Parents and godparents: *I do.*

Celebrant: And all his empty promises?

Parents and godparents: *I do.*

Next the celebrant asks for the threefold profession of faith from the parents and godparents:

Celebrant: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Parents and godparents: *I do.*

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Parents and godparents: *I do.*

Celebrant: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?

Parents and godparents: *I do.*

Celebrant: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

BAPTISM



The celebrant invites the family to the font and questions the parents and godparents:

Celebrant: Is it your will that N. should be baptised in the faith of the Church, which we have all professed with you?

Parents and godparents: *It is.*

The Celebrant baptises the child, saying:

N., I baptize you in the name of the Father,

He immerses the child or pours water upon him (her).

and of the Son,

He immerses the child or pours water upon him (her) a second time.

and of the Holy Spirit.

He immerses the child or pours water upon him (her) a third time.

Anointing with Chrism



Then the celebrant says:

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Then the celebrant anoints the child on the crown of the head with the sacred chrism, in silence.

Clothing with the White Garment



Celebrant: N., you have become a new creation, and have clothed yourself in Christ. See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity.

With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven.

All: Amen.

The white garment is put on the child.

The Lighted Candle



The celebrant takes the Easter candle and says:

Receive the light of Christ.

Someone from the family (such as the father or godfather) lights the child's candle from the Easter candle. The celebrant then says:

Celebrant: Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ.

He (she) is to walk always as a child of the light. May he (she) keep the flame of faith alive in his (her) heart. When the Lord comes, may he (she) go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

The Ephphatha (Prayer over Ears and Mouth) may now follow. The celebrant touches the ears and mouth of the child with his thumb, saying:

The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May He soon touch your ears to receive his Word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father.

All: Amen.

CONCLUSION OF THE RITE

Next there is a procession to the altar, unless the baptism was performed in the sanctuary. The lighted candle is carried for the child.

The following or an appropriate hymn may be sung.

You have put on Christ,
in Him you have been baptised.
Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord's Prayer

The celebrant stands in front of the altar and addresses the parents, godparents, and the whole assembly in these or similar words:

Dearly beloved, this child has been reborn in baptism. He (she) is now called the child of God, for so indeed he (she) is. In confirmation he (she) will receive the fullness of God's Spirit. In Holy Communion he (she) will share the banquet of Christ's sacrifice, calling God his (her) Father in the midst of the Church.

In the name of this child, in the Spirit of our common sonship, let us pray together in the Words our Lord has given us:

All present join the celebrant in singing or saying:

Our Father, who 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.

The Blessing

The celebrant first blesses the mother, who holds the child in her arms, then the father, and lastly the entire assembly:

Celebrant: God the Father, through His Son, the Virgin Mary's child, has brought joy to all Christian mothers, as they see the hope of eternal life shine on their children. May He bless the mother of this child. She now thanks God for the gift of her child. May she be one with him (her) in thanking him for ever in heaven, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

Celebrant: God is the giver of all life, human and divine. May He bless the father of this child. He and his wife will be the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith. May they be also the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

Celebrant: By God's gift, through water and the Holy Spirit, We are reborn to everlasting life. In his goodness, may He continue to pour out His blessings upon these sons and daughters of His. May He make them always, wherever they may be, faithful members of his holy people.

May He send His peace upon all who are gathered here, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: *Amen.*

Celebrant: May almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, bless you.

All: *Amen.*

WORD OF GOD



NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

1. A Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

6:3-5

When we were baptised we went into the tomb with him: let us live a new life

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Fathers glory, we too might live a new life. If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate Him in His resurrection.

The Word of the Lord.

2. A Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

8:28-32.

To become true images of His Son

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that His Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those He intended for this; those He called He justified, and with those He justified He shared his glory. After saying this, what can we add? With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that He will not refuse anything He can give.

The Word of the Lord.

3. A Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

12:12-13

In the one Spirit we are all baptised.

**Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.**

The Word of the Lord.

4. A Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

3:26-28

All baptised in Christ, you have all clothed yourselves in Christ.

You are, all of you, sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. All baptised in Christ, you have all clothed yourselves in Christ, and there are no more distinctions between Jew, and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

5. A Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

4: 1-6

One Lord, one faith, one baptism.

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation.

Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patient.

Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together.

There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is the Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

The Word of the Lord.

6. A Reading from the first letter of St Peter

2:11-5 9-10

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

Jesus Christ is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which he has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house.

You are a chosen race, royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people at all and now you are the People of God; once you were outside the mercy and now you have given mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

1. Ps 22 (23)

Response: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want*

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R)

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil should I fear.
You are there with your crook and staff;
with these you give me comfort (R)

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R)

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the day of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R)

2. Ps. 33 (34)

Response: *Look toward the Lord and be radiant.*

**I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast
The humble shall heat and be glad. (R)**

**Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all distress. (R)**

**The angle of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him. (R)**

**Then keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Turn aside from evil and do good;
seek and strive after peace. (R)**

**The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. (R)**

**They call and the Lord hears
and recues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. (R)**

3. Ps. 26. (27)

Response: *The Lord is my light and my help.*

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom small I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? (R)

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. (R)

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger,
you have been my help. (R)

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in Him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! (R)

GOSPEL READINGS

1. A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

22:35-40

This is the greatest and the first commandment.

To disconcert Jesus, one of the Pharisees, a lawyer, put a question, Master, which is greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first Commandment. The second resembles it. You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.

The Gospel of the Lord

2. A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

28:18-20

Make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus came up and spoke to his disciples. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you.

And know that I am with you always; yes to the end of time. '

The Gospel of the Lord

3. A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

10:13-16

Let the little children come to me.

People were bringing little children to Jesus, for him to touch them.

The disciples turned them away. but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

The Gospel of the Lord

4. A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

12:28-31

Listen, Israel, love the Lord your God with all your heart.

One of the scribes came up and put a question to Jesus, 'Which is the first of all the commandments? Jesus replied; 'This is the first: Listen, Israel the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you-must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'

The Gospel of the Lord

5. A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John

3:1-6

Unless a man is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of heaven.

There was one of the Pharisees called Nicodemus, a leading Jew, who came to Jesus by night, and said, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who comes from God; for no one could perform the signs that you do unless God were with him'.

Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, unless a man is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God, Nicodemus said, 'How can a grown man be born?

Can he go back into his mother's womb and be born again?

Jesus replied! 'I tell you most solemnly, unless a man is born through water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God: what is born of the flesh is flesh; what is born of the Spirit is spirit.'

The Gospel of The Lord

6. A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John

6:44-47

Everybody who believer has eternal life.

Jesus said to the crowd:

'No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise him up at the Last day.

It is written in the prophets: They will all be taught by God:

and to hear the teaching of the Father, and learn from it, is to come to me.

Not that anybody has seen the Father.

except the one who comes from God: he has seen the Father.

I tell you most solemnly, everybody who believes has eternal life.'

The Gospel of the Lord

