

# ORDER FOR BAPTISM

*Water in adequate supply may be in the baptistry, a font, a bowl, or a pitcher, depending upon local custom. If it is the practice of the local church to use a paschal candle, it may stand near the place of baptism and be lighted.*

## INVITATION

*The pastor and others who will lead the baptismal service may invite those who desire baptism for themselves or their children to come to the place where baptism will be celebrated. They may go out into the congregation to escort the candidates to the place for baptism. The invitation may be given informally, in words that reflect the growing relationship between the local church and the candidates.*

*As an expression of a special ministry of hospitality to children to be baptized, all children present may be invited to stand near children who are to be baptized.*

*A baptismal hymn may be sung.*

## WELCOME

*The pastor and people may introduce the baptismal service, using one of these statements or similar words.*

**A** PASTOR

Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

PEOPLE

**There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.**

PASTOR

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.<sup>44</sup>

**B** PASTOR

Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

PEOPLE

**For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.**

PASTOR

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.<sup>45</sup>

**C** *for use when children are baptized*

PASTOR

They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them,

PEOPLE

**“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”**

PASTOR

And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.<sup>46</sup>

## ADDRESS

*The pastor may address those gathered, using one of these options or other words based on scripture.*

### **A** PASTOR

Jesus came to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. “I ought to be baptized by you,” John said, “yet you have come to me!”

### PEOPLE

**Jesus said, “Let it be so for now. For in this way, we shall do all that God requires.” So John agreed.**

### PASTOR

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him.

### PEOPLE

**Then a voice said from heaven, “This is my own dear Son, with whom I am well pleased.”<sup>47</sup>**

### PASTOR

At another time Jesus said: Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.<sup>48</sup>

### ■ PASTOR

Jesus said: Unless we are born anew, we cannot see the reign of God; unless we are born of water and the Spirit, we cannot enter God’s new order.<sup>49</sup>

Paul the apostle said: All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into Christ’s death. We were buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, to the glory of God, we too might walk in newness of life.<sup>50</sup>

## AND

### **A** *for baptism of infants and young children*

#### PASTOR

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ’s church, the sign and seal of their participation in God’s forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.<sup>51</sup>

### **E** *for baptism of older children, youth, and adults*

#### PASTOR

Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ and given part in Christ’s ministry of reconciliation. Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible event: the reconciliation of people to God. It shows the death of self and the rising to a life of obedience and praise. It shows also the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on those whom God has chosen. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be God’s people always.<sup>52</sup>

*This response may follow either option.*

PEOPLE

**This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

### QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

*If there are no infants or young children to be baptized, continue with the questions for older children and adults on page 34.*

#### INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

*These questions may be used when the candidates are unable to speak for themselves. If more than one child is to be baptized, all parents and sponsors may respond in unison.*

PASTOR *addressing the parent(s)*

Do you desire to have your child(ren) baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

PARENT(S)

**I/We do.**

PASTOR *addressing the parent(s) and sponsor(s), if any*

Will you encourage *this child/these children* to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

PARENT(S) AND SPONSOR(S)

**I/We will, with the help of God.**

PASTOR

Will you teach *this child/these children* that *he/she/they* may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

PARENT(S) AND SPONSOR(S)

**I/We will, with the help of God.**

PASTOR

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple(s), to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

PARENT(S) AND SPONSOR(S)

**I/We do, with the help of God.**

PASTOR

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with *this child/these children* in the Christian faith, to help *this child/these children* to be a *faithful member/faithful members* of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that *she/he/they* may affirm *her/his/their* baptism?

PARENT(S) AND SPONSOR(S)

**I/We do, with the help of God.**

*If there are no older children or adults to be baptized, continue with the congregational assent on page 35.*

## OLDER CHILDREN AND ADULTS

*These questions may be used when the candidates are able to speak for themselves. If more than one person is to be baptized, they may respond to the questions in unison.*

PASTOR *addressing the candidate(s)*

Name(s), do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

CANDIDATE(S)

**I do.**

PASTOR *addressing the sponsor(s), if any*

Are you ready with God's help to guide and encourage name(s), by counsel and example, in prayer and with love, to follow the way of Jesus Christ?

SPONSOR(S)

**I am.**

PASTOR *addressing the candidate(s)*

Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

CANDIDATE(S)

**I do.**

PASTOR

Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

CANDIDATE(S)

**I do.**

PASTOR

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

CANDIDATE(S)

**I promise, with the help of God.**

PASTOR

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

CANDIDATE(S)

**I promise, with the help of God.**

## CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

*All may be invited to stand as the congregation is asked to make promises.*

PASTOR

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism.

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one(s) about to be baptized, as *he/she/they* live(s) and grow(s) in Christ?

PEOPLE

**We promise our love, support, and care.**

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*All may be invited to stand. Responses are made in unison by each worshiper, including the candidate(s) for baptism.*

PASTOR

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

**A** PASTOR

Do you believe in God?

PEOPLE

**I believe in God.**

PASTOR

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

PEOPLE

**I believe in Jesus Christ.**

PASTOR

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

PEOPLE

**I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

*When incorporating baptism and confirmation or reception of members, begin the Order for Baptism here.*

## PRAYER OF BAPTISM

*The congregation may be seated. A prayer may be offered, using the pastor's own words, option A with B, or B alone.*

PASTOR

Christ be with you.

PEOPLE

**And also with you.**

PASTOR

Let us pray.

**A** PASTOR

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning.

In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who was nurtured in the water of Mary’s womb.

Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

*The water may be visibly poured.*

■ *may be used alone or with option A*

PASTOR

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in *the one/all* baptized this day that *she/he/they* may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

ACT OF BAPTISM

NAMING OF A CHILD

*When a child is baptized, as each child is handed into the arms of the pastor, the parent(s) may be asked to name the child.*

PASTOR

By what name will your child be called?

PARENT(S)

*Name* .

*The pastor, administering the water by pouring, sprinkling, or immersion, says one of these.*

**A** PASTOR

*Name*, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE

**Amen.**

**B** PASTOR

*Name*, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE

**Amen.**

*The pastor may lay hands on the head of the baptized and say these or similar words.*

PASTOR

The Holy Spirit be upon you, *name*, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church.

ACT OF PRAISE

*A doxology or another act of praise may follow the baptism.*

If this order is being used in conjunction with one of the Orders for Affirmation of Baptism, return to the Order for Confirmation at the prayer on page 40 or the Order for Reception of Members at the address on page 46.

## PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

A prayer for the baptized may be said, using one of the following or the pastor's own words.

**A** PASTOR

We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful for *this your child/these your children* and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend *this new member/these new members* of the body of Christ.

ALL

**Give to the newly baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

**B** *includes optional words for use when a child is baptized.*

PASTOR

Let us pray for *the one/those* baptized today.

Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless *this newly baptized person/these newly baptized people*. May *she/he/they* be filled with joy; may *he/she/they* never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you.

Bless the parent(s) [and sponsor(s)] of *this child/these children*. May *she/he/they* always show *her/his/their* gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for name(s).

Bless these your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE

**Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

*Those leading the service may greet the newly baptized, the parents, and the sponsors informally. A lighted candle or another gift signifying discipleship may be given to each newly baptized person. The pastor, sponsors, or others may move through the congregation with the newly baptized and introduce the person(s) as a sign of entry and incorporation into the living community of faith.*

PASTOR

Go in the peace of Christ.

ALL

**Thanks be to God.**

*Those who have participated in the Order for Baptism may return to their places in the congregation.*

*A Service of Word and Sacrament or a Service of the Word continues, omitting the affirmation of faith.*