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A RITE OF
BAPTISM OF INFANTS
AND THOSE UNABLE TO ANSWER FOR
THEMSELVES

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The clergy, the sponsors and their candidates gather at the font.

The sponsors shall then present their candidates to the priest:

Reverend Sir, I present N., a candidate for holy baptism in the threefold name of God.

The priest shall then say,

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who at the baptism of your Son, Jesus Christ, in the river Jordan declared him to be your only and most loved Son; grant that *those* who here *come* to holy baptism may be born again, and as *members* of your well-loved Son may become your *children* by adoption and grace; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Old Testament lesson, Joel 2.28,29,32, shall then be read by a minister or a layman.

Then a psalm or hymn may be sung. Suggested psalms are: 27,42.1-7,48,97.

The Epistle, Galatians 4.4-7, shall be read by the priest or some one appointed by him.

Response at conclusion:

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel shall then be read by the priest or a deacon appointed by him:

The Holy Gospel is written in the chapter of the Gospel according to St , beginning at the verse.

Response:

Glory be to you, O Lord.

John 15.1-5, or Mark 10.13-16

Response:

Praise be to you, O Christ.

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The priest shall then address the sponsors, and put to them clearly their solemn duties in the name of Christ and his church. This address will lead into the renunciations and affirmations, made by the sponsors on behalf of the candidates:

Priest: Do you renounce the devil and all his works?

Sponsors: I do renounce them.

Priest: Do you renounce all pride and worldliness?

Sponsors: I do renounce them.

Priest: Do you renounce the sins of the flesh?

Sponsors: I do renounce them.

Priest: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

Sponsors: I do believe in him.

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord? who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; who suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; who went down to Hades, and also rose again the third day; who ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and from thence shall come again to judge the living and the dead?

Sponsors: I do believe in him.

Priest: 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 the life everlasting?

Sponsors: All this I firmly believe.

Priest: Will you keep the law of God, and serve him faithfully for the rest of your life?

Sponsors: With his help, I intend to do so.

THE PRAYERS AT THE FONT

Merciful God, grant that in the waters of baptism the old self in *these children* may be so buried that the new man may come to life in *them*. Amen.

A RITE OF BAPTISM OF INFANTS

Grant that all evil desires of the flesh may die in *them* and that all things belonging to the spirit may live and grow in *them*. Amen.

Grant that *they* may have power and strength to win the victory and to triumph against the devil, the world and the flesh. Amen.

Grant that as *they are* here dedicated to you, by this ministry of ours, *they* may also be endowed with heavenly virtues and rewarded with everlasting life, through your kindly mercy, blessed Lord God, who live and govern all things, world without end. Amen.

Priest:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

It is right and just that we should do so.

It is indeed right and just, and for our lasting good, that we should always and everywhere give thanks to you, almighty Father, eternal God, through your most dearly loved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom in the beginning you created the world, and made men in your own likeness.

Minister (clerical or lay):

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Then, when the time was fulfilled, you sent your Son into the world, to redeem mankind fallen into sin through disobedience.

He, being conceived by the Holy Spirit without any taint of sin, received for man's sake the baptism of repentance and was anointed by the Holy Spirit.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

He by your holy will became obedient to death, even the death of the cross, that he might secure forgiveness for us, and make for himself a chosen race, a royal priesthood for his own people.

A RITE OF BAPTISM OF INFANTS

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

He, when he had ascended up on high, poured forth the spirit of promise upon those who are declared to be sons, that being born of water and Holy Spirit they might become in him a new creation.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Wherefore, hear us, merciful Father, we most humbly pray you, and sanctify this water for the sacramental washing away of sin, that your *servants* to be baptized here may be made *members* of your church, which is the body of your Son, our Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer,

and let our cry come to you.

Grant that as *they are* buried by baptism into the death of your Son and *are made partakers* of his resurrection, *they* may die daily to sin, and rise again to righteousness, that serving you faithfully, in the fellowship of all your saints, *they* may inherit your glorious kingdom; all this we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, belong all might, majesty, dominion and power, through all the ages, world without end. **Amen.**

THE NAMING AND THE BAPTISM

The sponsors shall bring their candidates to the font, one by one. The presenting sponsor shall give the candidate's name. The priest appointed shall then immerse the candidate or pour water on his head, and say:

N., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We receive this child into the congregation of Christ's flock. From this time on, may *he* never be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and manfully to fight under his banner against sin, the world and the devil, and to continue as Christ's faithful soldier and servant to *his* life's end. **Amen.**

A RITE OF BAPTISM OF INFANTS

O Lord God, we thank you that this child is born again, incorporated in the mystical body of your Son. Let the light of your countenance shine upon your servant, and let the cross of your only and most loved Son be marked in *his* heart and *his* thoughts, [*Here let the priest make the sign of the cross upon him*] that *he* may continue your faithful soldier and servant to the end of *his* life. Grant, O Lord, that *he* may always confess your holy name, and in due time be strengthened with the gift of the Holy Spirit in confirmation and come with due preparation to receive the holy communion of the body and blood of your Son, and go forth into the world to serve you faithfully in the fellowship of your Church. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The priest shall add the following prayer for the home:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home; bless the home of *this child* and grant wisdom and understanding to all who have the care of *him* that *he* may grow up in the knowledge of your love; through the same your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

and a blessing, if the baptism is not within the context of another public service:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

