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A RITE OF  
**BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION**  
OF ADULT CANDIDATES

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## A RITE OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION OF ADULT CANDIDATES

*The procession of bishop and other clergy, with the candidates and their sponsors, proceeds directly to the font, and the congregation gathers conveniently. Psalm 51 is said or sung.*

*The sponsors present their candidates to the bishop, saying,*

Reverend Father in God, I present N., a candidate for membership in the family of God and in the body of Christ.

*The bishop reads the invocatory prayer:*

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 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.**

*If the service does not take place within the framework of the Holy Communion, the priest shall here read the lessons:*

Ezekiel 36.24-28

Romans 6.1-11

Mark 1.1-11, or John 3.3-15

*The Gospel at least, with its appropriate responses, shall be read.*

*The bishop then delivers a short charge to the candidates, leading into the renunciations and affirmations. The candidates reply individually.*

*Bishop:* Do you renounce the devil and all his works?

*Reply:* I do renounce them.

*Bishop:* Do you renounce all pride and worldliness?

*Reply:* I do renounce them.

*Bishop:* Do you renounce the sins of the flesh?

*Reply:* I do renounce them.

*Bishop:* Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?

*Reply:* I do believe in him.

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*Bishop:* 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?

*Reply:* I do believe in him.

*Bishop:* 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?

*Reply:* All this I firmly believe.

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

*Reply:* With his help, I intend to do so.

*The prayers at the font are said by the officiating priests as appointed by the bishop:*

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

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; for you live and govern all things, world without end. Amen.

*Priest:*

The Lord be with you,  
and with you.

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.**

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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.**

*Priest (continues):*

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.

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,

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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, belongs 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, saying,*

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

*The bishop shall say,*

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 Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto *his* life's end. **Amen.**

*The bishop shall then mark the forehead of each candidate with the sign of the cross (or anoint him with the chrism, if so allowed by the canons), and say,*

*The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

*And he shall add,*

Blessed be the Lord God almighty; for he has turned to his people and has set them free; he has made the morning sun of heaven to rise upon them, and to shine upon those who live in darkness; according to his mercy he saves *these* his *servants* by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, giving *them* forgiveness of all *their* sins.

Strengthen in *them*, O God, we pray, your manifold gifts of grace, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill *them* with the spirit of your holy fear now and forever. **Amen.**

*Then the candidates shall kneel before him and the bishop shall lay his hand on each one of them, saying,*

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Defend, O Lord, your child *N.*, with your heavenly grace, that *he* may continue yours forever, and daily increase in your holy Spirit more and more, until *he* comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you,  
and with your spirit.

*The Lord's Prayer*

*This prayer may be added,*

Almighty and everlasting God, we offer our prayers for your *servants* upon whom, after the example of your apostles, we have now laid our hands. Let your fatherly hand, we pray, always be over *them*; let your holy Spirit always be with *them*. Strengthen *them* evermore with the body and blood of your Son, and lead *them* to know and obey your word, that finally *they* may attain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who has made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
now and for ever, world without end.

*The bishop shall add one of the following sentences if the service is not followed by the Holy Communion:*

May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*1 Thessalonians 5.23.*

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen. Hebrews 13.20.** May the God of all grace who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, restore, establish, and strengthen you. To him be the dominion for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*1 Peter 5.10,11.*

*Then may follow Te Deum Laudamus, or a similar hymn of praise, as the service of Holy Communion commences and the candidates take their places with the assembled Christians.*

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND INFORMATION TRUST, SYDNEY.