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**THE MINISTRATION OF PUBLIC
BAPTISM OF INFANTS**

THE MINISTRATION OF PUBLIC BAPTISM OF INFANTS

The priest coming to the font shall say to the parents and godparents,

Has this child already been baptized?

If they answer No, the priest shall proceed,

Beloved in Christ Jesus, since all men are born with a sinful nature, and our Saviour Christ says none can enter into the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Holy Spirit, I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteous mercy he will grant to *this child* that thing which by nature *he* cannot have: that *he* may be baptized with water and the Holy Spirit, and be received into Christ's holy church and made a *living member* of it.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who by the baptism of thy well-beloved Son in the river Jordan didst sanctify water to the mystical washing away of sin; mercifully look upon *this child*, wash *him* and sanctify *him* with the Holy Spirit, that *he*, being delivered from thy judgement, may be received into Christ's church, and, being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love, may so pass through this troublesome world that finally *he* may come to everlasting life and reign with thee world without end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

This prayer may be used in addition to, or instead of, the former:

Almighty and immortal God, the helper of all that flee to thee for aid, the life of them that believe and the resurrection of the dead; we call upon thee for *this infant*, that *he*, coming to thy holy baptism, may receive remission of *his* sins by spiritual regeneration. Receive *him*, O Lord, as thou hast promised by thy well-beloved Son saying, Ask and you shall have, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you. So give now to us that

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BAPTISM OF INFANTS

ask, let us that seek find, open the gate to us that knock, that *this infant*, being washed from sin, may enjoy thy heavenly benediction and may come to the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then the priest shall say,

Hear the words of the gospel, written by Saint Mark in the tenth chapter at the thirteenth verse.

They were bringing children to Christ that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

The priest shall continue,

You hear in this gospel the words of our Saviour Christ, how he commanded the children to be brought to him, how he blamed those that would have kept them from him, how he exhorts all men to follow their innocency. You perceive how he declared his goodwill towards them, for he embraced them in his arms, he laid his hands upon them, and blessed them. Have no doubt, therefore, that he will favourably receive *this infant*, that he will embrace *him* with the arms of his mercy, that he will give to *him* the blessing of eternal life and make *him partaker* of his everlasting kingdom. Since we are thus assured of the good will of our heavenly Father towards *this infant*, declared by his Son Jesus Christ, and not doubting that he approves this charitable work of ours in bringing *this infant* to his holy baptism, let us devoutly and with faith give thanks to him, and say together,

Almighty and everlasting God, heavenly Father, we give thee humble thanks that thou hast called us to the knowledge of thy grace and to faith in thee. Increase this knowledge and strengthen this faith in us evermore. Give thy holy Spirit to this infant that he may be born again and made an heir of everlasting

BAPTISM OF INFANTS

salvation; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit now and for ever. Amen.

Then the priest shall speak to the godparents in this manner,

You have brought *this child* here to be baptized. You have prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would receive *him*, release *him* from sin, sanctify *him* with the Holy Spirit, and give *him* the kingdom of heaven and everlasting life. You have heard also that our Lord Jesus Christ has promised in his gospel to grant all these things you have prayed for; which promise he, for his part, will most surely keep and fulfil. Since Christ has so promised, *this infant*, for *his* part, must also faithfully promise, by you *his* sponsors (until *he comes* of age to take it upon *himself*), that *he* will renounce the devil and all his works, constantly believe God's holy word, and obediently keep his commandments. I ask therefore,

Do you, in the name of *this child*, renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all its covetous desires, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that you will not follow nor be led by them?

Answer. I renounce them all.

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

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord? And that he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary;

that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried;

that he descended into hell, and also rose again the third day;

that he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;

and from thence shall come again at the end of the world to judge the living and the dead?

And do you believe in the Holy Spirit;

the holy catholic church;

the communion of saints;

BAPTISM OF INFANTS

the forgiveness of sins ;
the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life?

Answer. All this I firmly believe.

Will you be baptized in this faith?

Answer. That is my desire.

Will you then keep God's holy will and commandments,
and walk in them all the days of your life?

Answer. I will.

Then shall the priest say,

O merciful God, grant that the old nature in *this child* may be so buried that the new man may be raised up in *him*. **Amen.**

Grant that all sinful desires may die in *him*, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *him*. **Amen.**

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

Grant that whoever is here dedicated to thee by our office and ministry may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly rewarded, through thy mercy, O blessed Lord God, who dost live and govern all things, world without end. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, whose most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins did shed out of his most precious side both water and blood, and commanded his disciples that they should go teach all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ; regard, we beseech thee, the prayers of thy congregation ; sanctify this water to the mystical washing away of sin, and grant that *this child*, now to be baptized therein, may receive the fulness of thy grace, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful and elect children ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then the priest shall take the child into his hands, and shall say to the godparents, Name this child. Then

BAPTISM OF INFANTS

naming him after them, he shall dip him in the water or pour water on him, saying,

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

Then the priest shall say,

We receive this child into the congregation of Christ's flock, and ✠ sign *him* with the sign of the cross in token that hereafter *he* shall not 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.**

✠ Here the priest shall make a cross on the child's forehead.

The priest shall then say,

Seeing now that *this child* is born again and grafted into the body of Christ's church, let us give thanks to almighty God for these benefits, and pray that *this child* may lead the rest of *his* life according to this beginning.

Then shall be said,

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

We give thee thanks, most merciful Father, that it has pleased thee to regenerate *this infant* with thy holy Spirit, to receive *him* as thine own *child* by adoption, and to make *him* a member of thy holy church. And humbly we beseech thee to grant that *he*, being buried with Christ in baptism, may put to death the old self and live in newness of life, and that, as *he* has been made *partaker* of the death of thy Son, *he* may also be a *partaker* of his resurrection, so that finally, with all thy holy church,

BAPTISM OF INFANTS

he may be *an inheritor* of thine everlasting kingdom; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then the priest shall say to the parents and godparents,

Since *this child* has promised by you *his* sponsors to renounce the devil and all his works, to believe in God and to serve him, you must remember that it is your responsibility and duty to see that *he is* taught, as soon as *he is* able to learn, what a solemn vow, promise and profession *he has* here made by you, and *is* instructed in all that a christian ought to know and believe for his soul's health.

In particular you are to make sure that *he learns* the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments, and that *he is* brought up to lead a godly and christian life. For this purpose, you should teach *him* to read the Bible and to pray, and to take *his* part in the worship and fellowship of the church.

Remember always that baptism declares to us our christian profession, which is to follow the example of our Saviour Christ and to be made like him; that, as he died and rose again for us, so should we who are baptized die to sin and rise again to a new life, continually rejecting all evil desires and daily advancing in godly living.

It is also your responsibility to see that *this child*, having been instructed in the church catechism and being ready and desirous to be confirmed, *is* brought to the bishop for confirmation.

At the service of Morning or Evening Prayer, when baptism is administered, one of the lessons and the canticle following, and the Creed, may be omitted from that service.