



17. OF BAPTISM

Baptism is not only a sign of profession, and mark of difference; but it is also a sign of regeneration, or the new birth. The baptism of young children is to be retained in the church.

Conducting the Sacrament of Baptism

The sacrament of Baptism consists in immersing the candidate in water or sprinkling or pouring water on the candidate's head while pronouncing the invocation of the Holy Trinity: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

A. The Order for Baptism of Infants

Dearly beloved, for as much as all persons are conceived and born in sin, and that our Savior Christ says none can enter into the kingdom of God except they be regenerated and born anew of water and of 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 or she cannot have; that he or she may be baptized with water and the Holy Ghost, and be received into Christ's Holy Church, and be made a lively member of the same.

Then shall the minister say:

Let us pray. Almighty and Everlasting God, who of your great mercy did save Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water; and also did safely lead the children of Israel, your people, though the Red Sea, figuring thereby your holy baptism; and by the baptism of your well beloved Son Jesus Christ in the river of Jordan, did sanctify him and sanctify water for his holy sacrament, we beseech you of your infinite mercies that thou would look upon this child; wash him or her with the Holy Spirit, that he or she being received into the ark of Christ's Church and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love, may so pass the waves of this troublesome world that finally he or she may come to the land of everlasting life, there to reign with you, world without end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O merciful God, grant that the old Adam in this child may be buried, that the new man or woman may be raised in him or her. Amen.

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

Grant that whosoever is dedicated to you by our office and ministry may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly rewarded through your mercy. O blessed Lord God, who lives and govern all-things, world without end. Amen.

Almighty, 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 gave commandment to 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 you, the Supplications of your congregation.

PUBLIC WORSHIP AND RITUALS

Sanctify this water for this holy sacrament and grant that this child now be baptized, may receive the fullness of your grace, and ever remain in the number of your faithful and elect children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Spirit; regard, we beseech you, with favor and the supplications of. this congregation and these persons now. to be baptized in your name, and grant that their hearts may so be opened to you that they may receive the fullness of your grace, and may ever remain in the number of your faithful children. Amen.

PUBLIC WORSHIP AND RITUALS

Sanctify this water for this holy sacrament and grant that this child, now to be baptized, may receive the fullness of your grace, and ever remain in the number of your faithful and elect children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then shall the minister address the Parents or Guardians in this wise:

Dearly beloved, for as much as this child is now presented by you for Christian baptism, you must remember that it is your part and duty to see that he or she be taught as soon as he or she shall be able to learn, the nature and end of this holy sacrament. And that he or she may know these things the better, you shall call upon him or her to give regular attendance upon the appointed means of grace, such as the ministry of the Word and the public and private worship of God; and further, you shall provide that he or she shall read the Holy Scriptures and learn the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Catechism, and all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his or her soul's health, in order that he or she may be brought up to lead a virtuous and holy life, remembering always that baptism does represent to us that inward purity which disposes us to follow the example of our Savior Christ; that as He died and rose again for us, so should we who are baptized die unto sin and rise again unto righteousness, continually mortifying all corrupt affections, and daily proceeding in all virtue and godliness.

Do you, therefore, solemnly engaging to fulfill these duties, so far as it lies in your power, the Lord being your helper?

Answer: We do.

Then shall the people stand up and the minister shall say:

Hear the words of the Gospel written by St. Mark in the tenth chapter and the thirteenth through the sixteenth verses:

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. 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. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." And He took them up in His arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Then the minister shall take the child into his or her hands and say to the parents of the child:

NAME THIS CHILD

And then naming the child after them, the minister shall sprinkle or pour water upon the child, or if desired, immerse the child in the water saying:

(Name), I baptize you in _the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy 'Ghost. Amen.

Then shall be said:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. (Matthew 6: 9-13) For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

B. The Order for the Baptism of Children and Youth

The minister shall say:

Hear the words of the Gospel recorded in St. Matthew 28:16- 20: "Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Amen.'"

The minister shall say:

Almighty and everlasting God, whose most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ gave himself for our redemption and did command his disciples that they should teach all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; regard, we beseech you, with favor and the supplications of this congregation and these persons now to be baptized in your name, and grant, that their hearts may so be opened to you that they may receive the fullness of your grace, and may ever remain in the number of your faithful children. Amen.

Then shall the minister say to the persons to be baptized:

Dearly beloved, you have heard how this congregation has prayed that as you have come to receive Holy Baptism, God would assist you to open your hearts to his love and direction, that you may become faithful disciples of our Lord.

For your part, it is necessary that in the presence of God and these witnesses you should make known your desire to accept the obligation of this holy Sacrament by answering the following questions:

Minister: Will you faithfully put away from you every known sin, of thought, word, and deed, and accept and confess Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?

Candidate: God being my helper, I will.

Minister: Will you faithfully study the Bible as God's Word and in all things strive to make it the rule of your life?

Candidate: God being my helper, I will.

Minister: Having been instructed in the way that the Spirit of our Lord separates right from wrong, will you faithfully endeavor to live so as to be well pleasing in His sight?

Candidate: God being my helper, I will.

Minister: Will you be baptized in this faith?

Candidate: This is my desire.

Then the minister shall ask each person his or her name and shall baptize him or her, saying:

(Name), I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Then shall be sung a suitable hymn, after which the benediction shall be given. See Hymn 543, "When Mothers of Salem."

C. The Order for the Baptism of Adults

Here the minister shall use the following, or some other suitable exhortation:

Dearly beloved, for as much as all persons are conceived and born in sin, and that which is born of the flesh is flesh and they that are in the flesh cannot please God but live in sin, committing actual transgressions, and our Savior Christ said that none can enter into the kingdom of God except he be regenerated and born anew of water and the Holy Ghost, and received into Christ's Holy Church, and be made a lively member of the same. I beseech you to call upon the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteous goodness he will grant to these persons that which by nature they cannot have; that they be baptized with water and the Holy Ghost.

Then shall the minister say:

Almighty and Immortal God, the aider of all that need, the helper of all that flee to you for succor, the life of them that believe in the resurrection of the dead, we call upon for these persons, that they coming to your holy baptism may receive the remission of their sins, by spiritual regeneration. Receive them, O Lord, as you have promised by your well, beloved Son saying, "Ask, and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you." So, give now to us that ask, let us that seek find, open the gate to us that knock, that these persons may enjoy the everlasting benediction of your heavenly washing, and may come to the eternal kingdom which you have promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

After which the minister shall say:

Almighty and Everlasting God, Heavenly Father, we give you humble thanks, for that you have vouchsafed to call us to the knowledge of your grace and faith in you, increase this knowledge and confirm this faith in us ever more. Give your Holy Spirit to these persons that they may be born again and made heirs of everlasting salvation, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. Amen.

Then shall the people stand up, and the minister shall say:

Hear the words of the gospel written by St. John in the third chapter, the first verse through the eighth verses: "Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'"

Well beloved, who have come here desiring to receive holy baptism, you have heard how the congregation has prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would vouchsafe to receive you, and bless you, to release you of your sins, to give you the kingdom of heaven and everlasting life. And our Lord Jesus Christ has promised in his holy word to grant all those things we have prayed for, which promise he, for his part, will surely keep and perform.

Wherefore, after this promise made by Christ you must also faithfully, on your part, promise in the presence of this whole congregation that you will renounce the devil and his works, and constantly believe God's word, and obediently keep his commandments.

Then shall the minister demand of each of the persons to be baptized:

Minister: Do you renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the flesh; so that you will not follow, nor be led by them?

Candidate: I renounce them all.

Minister: 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; and he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; that he rose again the third day; that he ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from thence he shall come again at the end of the world to judge the quick and the dead? And do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of the saints, the remission of sin, the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life after death?

Candidate: All this I steadfastly believe.

Minister: Will you be baptized in this faith?

Candidate: This is my desire.

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

Candidate: I will endeavor to do so, God being my helper.

Then the minister will say:

O merciful God, grant that the old Adam in these persons may be so buried that the new person may be raised in them. Amen. Grant that they may have power and strength to have victory and triumph against the devil, the world, and the flesh. Amen. Grant that they being here dedicated to you by our offices and ministry, may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly regarded, through your mercy, O blessed Lord God, who does live and govern all things, world without end. Amen.

Almighty, 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 gave commandment to his disciples that they should go teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, regard we beseech you the supplications of this congregation. Sanctify this water for this Holy Sacrament, and grant that the persons now to be baptized may receive the fullness of your grace and ever remain in the number of your faithful and elect children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then the minister takes each person to be baptized by the right hand and place him or her conveniently by the font, and according to his or her discretion, ask the name and then sprinkle or pour water upon him or her (or if one desires, immersion in water), saying:

(Name), I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed your name. Your kingdom come Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. And to not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13)

Then let the minister conclude with an extemporaneous prayer.