

Baptism Liturgy

*Written for the baptism of Owen Andrew Frantz
January 12, 2020*

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Presentation

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and/or parents gather with the ministers at the font. The assembly may be seated.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

*From a deep well of grace and love, God desires abundant life for all of creation. Through the gift of baptism, God frees us, saves us, and gives us a new identity in Christ. By water and word, we are joined to Christ's death and resurrection and united with the whole Church. We are one body, sealed by the Holy Spirit and blessed to take part in God's work in the world. Together, we walk along a journey of faith that challenges us, supports us, and invites us into a new way of being.

Sponsors for each candidate, in turn, present the candidate(s).

I present name for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses candidates who are able to answer for themselves.

*Name, do you wish to be baptized into Christ?

Each candidate responds:

I do.

The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves.

*Do you wish to have *your children* baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister continues:

*As you bring *your children* to the font to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with both the privilege and responsibility of guiding them in the path of Christian living. Your child will learn from your example: engaging in a community of faith, worshiping with the body of Christ, listening to the proclaimed Word, and receiving Jesus' body and blood in Holy Communion. You will teach them the writings and prayers central to our faith and provide them with our holy texts. You will nurture their blossoming relationship with God so that their faith may be active in love by working towards justice and peace, caring for other people and God's beloved creation, proclaiming the freeing love of Christ, and trusting God in all things.

*Do you promise to embrace this role and help your child grow in faith?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help me.

The presiding minister addresses the sponsor(s).

*Sponsor(s), do you promise to mentor *this person/child* in the faith and provide a safe and holy space for asking and wondering about God? Do you promise to be an example of what it looks like to live as a disciple of Jesus?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help me.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly. The assembly stands.

*People of God, do you promise to support *name(s)* and pray for *them* as *they* embark on a new way of living?

We do, and we ask God to help us.

Profession of Faith

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce evil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
Response: I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty...

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord...

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
I believe in God the Holy Spirit...

Thanksgiving for Baptism

(Originally written for the Season of Easter in 2018)

Praise be to God, the source of living water.
Praise be to God, the source of living water.

Almighty God, the Lover, Beloved and Love itself,
you provide the waters of life:
Water for washing, water for drinking,
water for splashing, water for sustaining the earth.
We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

You have rescued your people from peril:
Delivering Noah and his family from the flood.
Leading the Israelites to safety through the Red Sea.
Providing water from a rock in the wilderness of Sinai.
We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

You have offered waters that save:
Water from the river that healed Naaman from his leprosy.
Water from the Jordan where John stood and baptized.
Water mixed with blood that flowed from Jesus' side on the cross.
We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.

Come now, O Holy Spirit, and shower your presence among us here.
Restore us. Cleanse us. Refresh us. Make us one with you.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

Baptism

The presiding minister baptizes each candidate. The candidate is immersed into the water, or water is poured on the candidate's head.

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

After each baptism, the assembly may respond with the following or another acclamation:

*Welcome! You are God's beloved child. Thanks be to God who created us, redeems us, and sustains us. Alleluia!

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray.

*We give you thanks, Holy One, that through this water and the promise of your word you have claimed each one of us as your own, washing away our sin, and raising us up to new life in you.

Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:

Sustain name with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Name, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:

*Jesus is the Light of the World. The light that scatters shadows and illuminates your way. The light that shines so all may see the love of God.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative from the congregation leads the assembly in welcome.

*Let us welcome our newest *brother(s)/sister(s)/sibling(s)* in Christ!

***We welcome you into this congregation and into the Body of Christ.**

***In our worship, in our work, in our praise and in our lament, we are one in this community of faith. We are glad to have you join us as we share God's love and grace with our hurting world.**