

St Barnabas, Linslade

The Baptism of Children

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all
and also with you.

These or other words of welcome and introduction are said:

God raised Jesus Christ from the dead
and sent the Holy Spirit
to recall the whole world to himself.
In baptism we die to sin
and rise to newness of life in Christ.
Here we find rebirth in the Spirit,
and set our minds on his heavenly gifts.
As children of God,
we are continually created anew,
as we walk the path of faith,
and feed on the forgiveness of his healing grace.

The president says the Collect

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your faithful people
new life in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again
may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature
of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
now and for ever.

Amen

READING

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The candidates are presented to the congregation

The president asks those candidates for baptism that are able to answer for themselves:

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

The president addresses the whole congregation:

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome *these children* and uphold *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

The president then says to the parents and godparents:

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *these children* with joy. Today we are trusting God for *their* growth in faith. Will you pray for *them*, draw *them* by your example into the community of faith and walk with *them* in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism *these children* begin *their* journey in faith. You speak for *them* today. Will you care for *them*, and help *them* to take *their* place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

DECISION

The president addresses the candidates through their parents and godparents:

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil
and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption
of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us
from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way,
the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

A minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate using the Oil of Baptism, saying:

Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

Others may be invited to sign the candidates with the cross.

When all the candidates have been signed, the president says:

Do not be ashamed to confess
the faith of Christ crucified.

**Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ
to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you
from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory,
and lead you in the light
and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE WATER

*The ministers and candidates gather at the baptismal font.
The president stands before the water of baptism and says:*

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

We thank you, almighty God,
for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved
in the beginning of creation.

Through water you led the children of Israel
from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the
promised land.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism
of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as
the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from the
death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father,
for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ
in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn
by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we
baptize into his fellowship those who come to
him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of
your Holy Spirit, they may be cleansed from sin
and born again.

Renewed in your image, may they walk by the
light of faith and continue for ever in the risen
life of Jesus Christ our Lord;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The president addresses the congregation:

Let us affirm,
together with these who are being baptized,
our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust
in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust
in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

BAPTISM

*The president or another minister dips each candidate in water
or pours water on them, saying:*

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

Amen.

*The candidates are anointed with the Oil of Chrism.
The president says:*

May God, who has received you by baptism
into his Church, pour upon you the riches of
his grace, that within the company of Christ's
pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his
anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of
the saints in glory.

Amen.

COMMISSION

A minister addresses those present:

We have brought these *children* to baptism knowing that Jesus died and rose again for *them* and trusting in the promise that God hears and answers prayer. We have prayed that in Jesus Christ *they* will know the forgiveness of *their* sins and the new life of the Spirit.

As *they* grow up, *they* will need the help and encouragement of the Christian community, so that they may learn to know God in public worship and private prayer, follow Jesus Christ in the life of faith, serve their neighbour after the example of Christ, and in due course come to confirmation.

As part of the Church of Christ, we all have a duty to support *them* by prayer, example and teaching. As *their* parents and godparents, you have the prime responsibility for guiding and helping *them* in *their* early years. This is a demanding task for which you will need the help and grace of God. Therefore let us now pray for grace in guiding *these children* in the way of faith.

PRAYER

The president addresses the parents and godparents and prays for them.

Faithful and loving God, bless those who care for these children and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith. Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love, and protect their home from all evil. Fill them with the light of your presence and establish them in the joy of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God of grace and life, in your love you have given us a place among your people; keep us faithful to our baptism, and prepare us for that glorious day when the whole creation will be made perfect in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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N and N,
today God has touched you with his love
and given you a place among his people.
God promises to be with you
in joy and in sorrow,
to be your guide in life,
and to bring you safely to heaven.
In baptism God invites you
on a life-long journey.
Together with all God's people
you must explore the way of Jesus
and grow in friendship with God,
in love for his people,
and in serving others.
With us you will listen to the word of God
and receive the gifts of God.

WELCOME

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
N and N, by one Spirit we are all baptized
into one body.

**We welcome you into the
fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same
heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

LORD'S PRAYER

In baptism God declares that we are his
children, whom he loves;
so let us pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who
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.**

SENDING OUT

BLESSING

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory
in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

GIVING OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

The president or another person may give each of the newly baptized a lighted candle. These are lit from the Paschal Candle.

When all the newly baptized have received a candle, the president says

God has delivered us from the dominion of
darkness and has given us a place with the
saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ; walk in
this light all the days of your life.

**Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

DISMISSAL

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.