

By Water and the Spirit

PASTOR: IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

All: Amen.

PASTOR: HOLY BAPTISM IS GOD'S GIFT TO HIS CHURCH. IN THIS SACRAMENT WE ARE INITIATED INTO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. WE RECEIVE OUR IDENTITY AS MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF GOD, AND BECAUSE CHRIST IS OUR BROTHER WE ARE ALSO BROTHERS AND SISTERS TO ONE ANOTHER. WE BEGIN OUR NEW LIFE, WE LIVE OUR NEW LIFE AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE RESURRECTION UNDER THE SIGN OF OUR BAPTISM.

AS THE PRESIDING MINISTER OF THIS CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY, I WELCOME THIS CHILD TO RECEIVE HOLY BAPTISM.

LAY-LIT: TO THE PARENTS:

_____ AND _____
YOU HAVE REQUESTED THAT YOUR CHILD BE BAPTIZED. THE REQUEST IS GRANTED AND I ENCOURAGE YOU TO REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE ALSO TO TAKE SERIOUSLY YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS PARENTS.

TODAY _____ IS BEING INCORPORATED INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST. YOU ARE THUS CALLED TO RAISE (HIM/HER) IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE CHURCH SO THAT AS (HE/SHE) GROWS INTO ADULT LIFE (HE/SHE) MAY LIVE IN THE VOCATION OF (HIS/HER) BAPTISM.

LAY-LIT: TO THE SPONSORS:

_____ AND _____,
AS SPONSORS FOR THIS CHILD, YOU HAVE ALSO TAKEN UPON YOURSELF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS CHILD. YOU ARE TO INCLUDE _____ IN YOUR PRAYERS. IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO (HIS/HER) PARENTS SO THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITY OR IF THEY OTHERWISE NEGLECT TO DO SO, YOU ARE TO SEE TO IT THAT (HE/SHE) IS RAISED WITHIN THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.

LAY-LIT: TO THE CONGREGATION:

ALL OF US ARE WITNESSES TO THIS BAPTISM. THROUGH BAPTISM, THIS CHILD BECOMES A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY. WE WILL REJOICE IN THIS AND INCLUDE _____ IN OUR PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION.

PASTOR: THE READING OF THE LESSON: TITUS 3.4-8

The Signing:

RECEIVE THE SIGN OF THE HOLY CROSS, BOTH ON YOUR FOREHEAD AND YOUR BREAST AS A SIGN THAT THROUGH YOUR BAPTISM YOU ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST. THROUGH THE CROSS, YOU HAVE BEEN REDEEMED, IN BAPTISM YOU RECEIVE THE FULLNESS OF THIS REDEMPTION; AND HENCEFORTH YOU ARE CALLED TO TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW AFTER CHRIST.

HOW SHALL THIS CHILD BE NAMED?

The Baptism:

_____, I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

All: Amen.

PASTOR: NOW MAY YOU EVERMORE BE CLOTHED WITH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, FOR WHOSE SAKE GOD HAS MADE YOU HIS CHILD AND PROMISES YOU THE FULLNESS OF YOUR NEW LIFE.

(The Baptismal Candle is lit and given to the parents.)

RECEIVE THIS LIGHTED CANDLE AS A SYMBOL OF THAT NEW LIFE WHICH IS OURS IN CHRIST.

(Psalm 121 is read by all)

All: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved. He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and evermore.

The Prayer:

PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

All: Almighty God, You make light to shine out of darkness, You make new life to spring out of old, You make of all people the one new race; we are grateful; we are grateful that You have given your church the wonderful gift of Baptism, and that You have seen fit to admit this child to this privilege.

Your full blessing is (His/Hers); once You called (Him/Her) in your fellowship. Continue this good work which You have begun in (Him/Her) until the day of Our Lord Jesus Christ, through the same Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing:

PASTOR: GOD ALMIGHTY SEND YOU HIS LIGHT AND TRUTH TO KEEP YOU ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE. THE HAND OF GOD PROTECTS YOU; HIS HOLY ANGELS ACCOMPANY YOU. GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT, CAUSE HIS GRACE TO BE MIGHT UPON YOU.

All: Amen.

(Introduction and Applause for the Newest Member of our Church Family.)

(The Congregation Rises and Our Liturgy for the Day Continues)