

Contemporary Order of Holy Baptism

PASTOR: BAPTISM IS GOD'S GIFT TO HIS PEOPLE. IN THIS SACRAMENT HE GIVES BIRTH TO HIS CHILDREN INTO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE THROUGH THE BODY OF CHRIST, HIS CHURCH.

- HERE WE BECOME MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY.
- HERE JESUS IS OUR BROTHER, AND WE BECOME BROTHERS AND SISTERS TO EACH OTHER.
- HERE GOD FORGIVES SIN AND ACCEPTS US.
- HERE WE BEGIN, LIVE AND END OUR NEW LIFE, AND LOOK FORWARD TO OUR RESURRECTION UNDER THE SIGN OF OUR BAPTISM.

SINCE THIS CONGREGATION IS GOD'S FAMILY IN THIS PLACE. WE ACT IN HIS NAME, TO RECEIVE PERSONS FOR BAPTISM, AND TO STRENGTHEN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

People: In Christ we welcome this child to receive Holy Baptism.

LAY-LIT: BECAUSE THIS CHILD BECOMES A MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY, I CHARGE YOU TO PRAY FOR (HIM/HER) AND ALL CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY AND TO ASSIST THEM IN THEIR GROWTH IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

YOU ARE ALSO TO REMEMBER DAILY THE GRACE OF YOUR OWN BAPTISM, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU WITNESS GOD'S GIFT TO A NEW MEMBER OF OUR HOUSEHOLD. I THEREFORE ASK YOU TO REAFFIRM YOUR FAITH IN REMEMBRANCE OF YOUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT.

Charge to the Sponsors:

_____ AND _____
DO YOU INTEND TO SERVE AS SPONSORS (Proxies for the sponsors) WHO WILL BE WITNESSES FOR THIS CHILD BOTH AT (HIS/HER) BAPTISM AND AS (HE/SHE) GROWS INTO ADULT LIFE? IF SO, SAY "YES WITH THE HELP OF GOD".

Sponsors: Yes, with the help of God.

LAY-LIT: I THEREFORE, ASSIGN YOU THE TASK OF REPRESENTING THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BY REMEMBERING THIS CHILD IN YOUR PRAYERS AND BY ASSISTING (HIS/HER) PARENTS IN RAISING (HIM/HER) WITHIN THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.

Charge to the Parents:

PASTOR: _____ AND _____, IN CHRISTIAN LOVE YOU PRESENT THIS CHILD FOR HOLY BAPTISM. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE BRING

(HIM/HER) TO THE SERVICES OF GOD'S HOUSE, AND TEACH (HIM/HER) THE LORD'S PRAYER, THE CREED AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. AS (HE/SHE) GROWS IN YEARS, YOU SHOULD PLACE IN (HIS/HER) HANDS THE HOLY SCRIPTURES AND PROVIDE FOR (HIS/HER) INSTRUCTION IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. THAT, LIVING IN THE COVENANT OF (HIS/HER) BAPTISM AND IN COMMUNION WITH THE CHURCH, (HE/SHE) MAY LEAD A GODLY LIFE UNTIL THE DAY OF JESUS CHRIST. DO YOU PROMISE TO FULFILL THESE OBLIGATIONS?

Parents: Yes, With the help of God.

PASTOR: TODAY, YOUR CHILD IS RECEIVED INTO THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE FAMILY OF GOD. (HE/SHE) IS NURTURED IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE CHURCH SO THAT AS (HE/SHE) GROWS IN YEARS (HE/SHE) MAY MATURE IN THE CALLING OF THIS BAPTISMAL COVENANT.

HOW SHALL THIS CHILD BE NAMED?

"BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST! BY HIS GREAT MERCY WE HAVE BEEN BORN ANEW TO A LIVING HOPE THROUGH THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD."

_____, RECEIVE THE SIGN OF THE HOLY CROSS UPON YOUR BROW AND UPON YOUR BREAST AS A TOKEN THAT YOU SHALL BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

_____, I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. MAY ALMIGHTY GOD, THE FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS, WHO HAS GIVEN YOU NEW BIRTH BY WATER AND THE SPIRIT, STRENGTHEN YOU WITH HIS GRACE FOR THIS LIFE UNTIL THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME.

Congregation: Creator God... in goodness and love forever bring new life. We give our thanks that you also give new life in this baptism where we have been a part. We ask that you will continue the nourishment of this life begun here today and bring all of us to full completeness at the day of Our Lord Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(The introduction of the newest member of the Christian Church.)