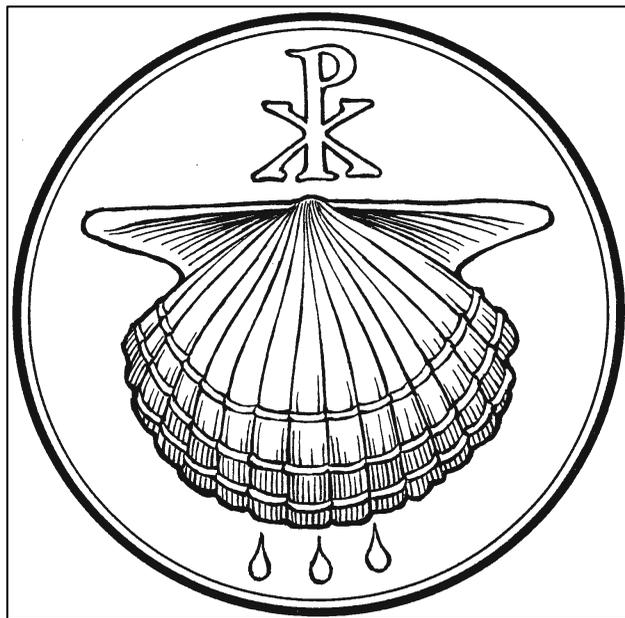


The Rite of Holy Baptism

- *The rite for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is for use with candidates of all ages. Candidates are infants born to members of the congregation or those for whom members assume the responsibility of nurture, and older persons who, after adequate instruction in the Christian faith, declare their faith in Jesus Christ and their desire for Baptism.*
- *When the candidate is unable to speak, sponsors are appointed to speak in his or her stead. Sponsors should be chosen with great care. They are practicing members in good standing of an Evangelical Lutheran congregation.*
- *The rite of Holy Baptism is a public rite of the Church that is usually administered in the presence of the congregation.*



The candidate, sponsors, and family gather with the pastor at the entrance of the nave. When candidates are unable to speak for themselves, the parents and sponsors answer the questions on their behalf.

P indicates Pastor, **C** is congregation, and **R** the respondent (including parents & sponsors).

Stand and face the entrance to the nave.

- P** Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” And the apostle Peter has written, “Baptism now saves you.”

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own.

Therefore, depart, you unclean spirit, and make room for the Holy Spirit in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of the candidate while saying:

- P** Receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✠ forehead and upon your ✠ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.
- P** Let us pray.

O almighty and eternal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray on behalf of Your servant(s) names(s), who asks for the gift of Your Baptism and desires Your eternal grace through spiritual rebirth. Receive him/her/them, Lord, according to Your promise: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Now give Your blessing to him/her/them who ask(s) and open the door to him/her/them who knock(s), so that he/she/they may obtain the eternal blessing of this heavenly bath and receive the promised kingdom that You give; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold names(s) according to Your boundless mercy and bless him/her/them with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in him/her/them, which has been inherited from Adam and which he himself/ she herself/ they themselves has/have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that he/she/they be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, he/she/they would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.” And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

The pastor places his hands on the head of the candidate, and the congregation joins in praying:

C **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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

As the baptismal party moves from the entrance of the nave to the font, the hymn is sung by all:

Baptismal Hymn: 601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized



1 All who be - lieve and are bap-tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion;
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly Spir - it.



Bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion.
Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it.



Through Christ's re-demp-tion they shall stand A - mong the glo-rious,
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -



heav'n - ly band Of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.
ment we may E - ter - nal life in - her - it.

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P The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even † forevermore.
C Amen.

Sit.

The pastor addresses the candidate and asks the following questions.

P Name(s), do you renounce the devil?
R Yes, I renounce him.

P Do you renounce all his works?
R Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you renounce all his ways?
R Yes, I renounce them.

The church bell is rung when each person of the Holy Trinity is named.

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

R Yes, I believe.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

R Yes, I believe.

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

R Yes, I believe.

P Name , do you desire to be baptized?

R Yes, I do.

The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:

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

C Amen.

The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized and may use oil when he makes the sign of the cross on the forehead while saying:

P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

C Amen.

The pastor may place a white garment on the newly baptized.

P Receive this white garment to show that you have been clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin. So shall you stand without fear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the inheritance prepared for you before the foundation of the world.

The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and gives it to the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

P Peace be with you.

C Amen.

All return to their places. The Divine Service continues with the Introit.

Acknowledgments

Holy Baptism from Lutheran Service Book

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