

Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion

An order of service for:

The baptism and confirmation of adults

The baptism of families and confirmation of adults

The baptism of adults

The baptism of families

The baptism of children

The confirmation of those already baptized

If either the baptism of children or the confirmation of those already baptized is to be administered on its own, then the separate services at sections 40 and 62 respectively should be used.

NOTES

- 1 **Baptism without Confirmation** Adults who are to be baptized should normally be confirmed at the same service; but where baptism is to be administered to adults without confirmation, sections 22–25 are omitted.
- 2 **Family Baptism** When children who are not old enough to answer for themselves are baptized at the same time as their parents, the parents answer the questions for themselves and for their children, saying, *We turn to Christ, We repent of our sins, We renounce evil, We believe and trust in him.* When children who are old enough to respond are baptized, the parents and godparents answer the questions, and at the discretion of the priest the children may also answer them. When children and their parents are baptized on the same occasion, it is fitting that the children are baptized immediately after their own parents.
- 3 **The Signing with the Cross** The signing with the cross may take place either at section 14 or at section 20. The sign of the cross may be made in oils blessed for this purpose.
- 4 **The Giving of a Candle** A lighted candle, which may be the Paschal candle, may be made ready so that other candles may be lighted from it.
- 5 At the signing with the cross and the giving of a candle, the bishop or other minister may address the candidate by name.
- 6 **The People's Responses** At the signing with the cross it is sufficient if the people join in and say their part (sections 14 and 20) once only, when all have been signed; and if a candle is given to those who have been baptized, it is sufficient if the people join in and say their part (section 21) once only, when all have received a candle.

- 7 **Anointing with Oil** At section 24 the bishop may anoint candidates with oil which he has previously blessed for this purpose.
- 8 Where it is prescribed that anything is to be said or done by the bishop, he may delegate it to other ministers; but only the bishop is to confirm (section 24).
- 9 **Permitted omissions** Sections with numbers in brackets may be omitted.
- 10 **Lessons** The bishop may direct other lessons to be read than those appointed in this order, subject to the provisions of the *Rules to Order the Service*.
- 11 When candidates for the confirmation are presented at the same service as candidates for both baptism and confirmation, the precise ordering of the service and the place of baptism should be determined by consultation between the bishop and the parish priest.
- 12 **The Administration of Baptism** A threefold administration of water (whether by dipping or pouring) is a very ancient practice of the Church, and is commended as testifying to the faith of the Trinity in which candidates are baptized. Nevertheless, a single administration is also lawful and valid.
- 13 At the discretion of the bishop, the renewal of baptismal vows by members of the congregation may take place after section 10 instead of at section 27.

Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion

The Preparation

- (1) *At the entry of the ministers this, or another appropriate sentence, may be used:*

The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.
Ps. 118.14

and a hymn or a canticle may be sung.

- 2 *Bishop* The Lord be with you.
All And also with you.
- (3) *If the Prayers of Penitence (Holy Communion Series 3, sections 17–20) are to be used, they follow here.*
- 4 *Bishop* 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 that 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 and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

- 5 *Sit*
The Old Testament Lesson
If a lesson from the Old Testament is to be read, one of the following may be chosen:

Gen. 7.17–23 (or 7.17–8.5)	Deut. 30.15–20 2 Kings 5.1–15a	Isa. 44.1–5 Jer. 31.31–34
Exod. 14.19–31	Isa. 43.1–3a, 6b–7	Ezek. 36. 25a, 26–28

At the end the reader may say
This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**
Silence may be kept.

- (6) *Psalm 107.1–9 may be sung.*

- 7 *The Epistle*
If an epistle is to be read, one of the following may be chosen:

Acts 16.25–34	Rom. 8.11–17	Gal. 5.16–25
Rom. 6.3–11	1 Cor. 12. 12, 13	1 Pet. 2.4–10

At the end the reader may say
This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**
Silence may be kept.

- (8) *A canticle or a hymn may be sung.*

- 9 *Stand* *The Gospel. When it is announced,*
All **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**
One of the following may be chosen:

Matt. 16.24–27	Mark 1.1–11	John 3.1–8
Matt. 28.16–20	Mark 1.14–20	John 15.1–11

At the end the reader may say
This is the Gospel of Christ.

All **Praise to Christ our Lord.**
Silence may be kept.

- 10 *Sit*
The sermon
At the end, silence may be kept.

The Decision

- (11) *If children are to be baptized, sections 40 and 41 may be used here.*
- 12 *Those who are to be baptized, the parents and godparents of children to be baptized, and those who are to be confirmed stand before the Bishop. He says*

Our Lord Jesus Christ suffered death on the cross and rose again from the dead for the salvation of mankind.

Baptism is the outward sign by which we receive for ourselves what he has done for us:

we are united with him in his death;
we are granted the forgiveness of sins;
we are raised with Christ to new life in the Spirit.

Those of you who have come for baptism must affirm your allegiance to Christ and your rejection of all that is evil.

[Those parents and godparents who present children for baptism must bring them up to fight against evil and to follow Christ.]*

Those of you who come to be confirmed must with your own mouth and from your own heart declare your allegiance to Christ and your rejection of all that is evil.

- 13 Therefore I ask these questions. [Parents and godparents must answer both for themselves and for *these children*.]*

* *When no children are to be baptized, the words in brackets are omitted.*

Answer Do you turn to Christ?
I turn to Christ.

Answer Do you repent of your sins?
I repent of my sins.

Answer Do you renounce evil?
I renounce evil.

14 *Either here or at section 20 the Bishop makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each one who is to be baptized, saying to each*

I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

After the signing of each or all, he says

All Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.
Fight valiantly under the banner of Christ against sin, the world, and the devil, and continue his faithful soldiers and servants to the end of your lives.

15 *Bishop* May Almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All Amen.

Psalm 121 or some other suitable psalm or hymn may be sung.

The Baptism

16 *The Bishop stands before the water of baptism and says*
Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All **who keeps his promise for ever.**

Bishop Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan,

we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us;
we thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land;

we thank you that through the deep waters of death you
brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Bless this water, that your *servants* who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Send your Holy Spirit upon *them* to bring *them* to new birth in the family of your Church, and raise *them* with Christ to full and eternal life.

For all might, majesty, authority, and power are yours, now and for ever.

All Amen.

17 *The Bishop says to adults who are to be baptized*

You must now declare before God and his Church the Christian faith into which you are to be baptized and in which you will live and grow.

(To parents and godparents of children who are to be baptized he says

You must now declare before God and his Church the Christian faith into which *these children* are to be baptized, and in which you will help *them* to live and grow. You must answer for yourselves and for *these children*.)

(To those who have already been baptized and are now to be confirmed, he says

You must now declare that you accept the Christian faith into which you were baptized, and in which you will live and grow.)

Then he says

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, the creator of all?

Answer I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, the redeemer of the world?

Answer I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, the giver of life?

Answer I believe and trust in him.

18 *The Bishop turns to the congregation and says*

This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith.**

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

19 *The Bishop then baptizes the candidates. He dips each one in the water or pours water on him, addressing him by name.*

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

And each one of his sponsors answers

Amen.

20 *The Bishop makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each one, if he has not already done so. The appropriate words are printed at section 14.*

(21) *The priest or other person may give a lighted candle to each adult who has been baptized, and to a parent or godparent for each child, saying to each*
Receive this light.

And when a candle has been given to each one, he says

This is to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

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

The Confirmation

22 *The Bishop stands before those to be confirmed and says*

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All **who has made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord

All **now and for ever. Amen.**

23 *The Bishop stretches out his hands towards them, and says*
Almighty and everliving God, you have given *your servants* new birth in baptism by water and the Spirit, and have forgiven *them* all *their* sins.

Let your Holy Spirit rest upon *them*:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
and let *their* delight be in the fear of the Lord.

All Amen.

24 *The Bishop lays his hand on the head of each candidate, saying*
Confirm, O Lord, your servant *N* with your Holy Spirit.
and each one answers
Amen.

25 *After confirmation, the Bishop invites the people to join with him and say*
Defend, O Lord, *your servants* with your heavenly grace,
that *they* may continue yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more,
until *they* come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

The Welcome

26 *The congregation, representing the whole Church, welcomes the candidates.*
Bishop God has received you by baptism into his Church.
All We welcome you.
We are members together of the body of Christ;
we are children of the same heavenly father;
we are inheritors together of the kingdom of God.
We welcome you.

(27) *If some members of the congregation are now to make a renewal of their baptismal vows, sections 90–93 may be used here.*

The Peace

28 *The Bishop continues the Holy Communion with the Peace (Holy Communion Series 3, sections 21–22).*
29 *The service proceeds according to that order, except as shown below.*

Propers

Thanksgiving And now we give you thanks, because by that same Spirit we are led into all truth and are given power to proclaim your gospel to the nations and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Postcommunion God who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Rom. 8.11

30 *The Bishop says both the Blessing and the Dismissal (Holy Communion Series 3, sections 42–43).*

Baptism and Confirmation

when they are not immediately followed by Holy Communion

A *The service follows the order to be used at Holy Communion (sections 1–27 above). One, two, or three lessons may be used as the Bishop directs.*

After section 27, the Bishop proceeds with one or more of the following prayers

31 *For adults who have now been baptized*

We thank you, heavenly Father, that by your Holy Spirit you have given your *servants* new birth, adopted *them* to be your *children*, and made *them members* of your Church. We pray that, in the power of the Spirit, *they* may live and grow in your service, and attain your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

32 *For those who have now been confirmed*

Heavenly Father, we pray for your *servants*, upon whom we have now laid our hands after the example of the apostles to assure *them* by this sign of your favour towards *them*. May your fatherly hand ever be over *them*, your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*. Strengthen *them* continually with the Body and Blood of your Son, and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your word that in the end *they* may obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

33 *For children who have been baptized and their parents*

Lord God our Father, maker of heaven and earth, we thank you that by your Holy Spirit *these children* have been born again into new life, adopted for your own, and received into the fellowship of your Church: we pray that *they* may grow in the faith into which *they have* been baptized; that *they* may profess it for *themselves* when *they come* to be confirmed; and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *them*. We pray also for their parents; give them the spirit of wisdom and love, that their *homes* may reflect the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

34 *For all Christian people*

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptized in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

35 *For the Church's witness*

Almighty God, whose Holy Spirit equips the Church with a rich variety of gifts; grant that we may use them to bear witness

to Christ by lives built on faith and love. Make us ready to live his gospel and eager to do his will, that we may share with all your Church in the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

36

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace;
where there is injury, let there be pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
where there is hatred, love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

37

**Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you
for all the benefits you have won for us,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.
Most merciful redeemer,
friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day. Amen.**

38

**Eternal God,
you have declared in Christ
the completion of your purpose of love.
May we live by faith, walk in hope, and be renewed in love,
until the world reflects your glory,
and you are all in all.
Even so; come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

39 *Then all say the Lord's Prayer.*

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Do not bring us to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Bishop ends the service with a blessing.

When the service is used at Morning or Evening Prayer, proper psalms and lessons may be chosen from those printed above (sections 5–9), and the sentence (section 1) and collect (section 4) may also be used instead of those of the day.

The service follows this order:

- 1 Morning or Evening Prayer, to the end of the second lesson.
- 2 A sermon may be preached.
- 3 Baptism and Confirmation, sections 11–27 (or those parts which are required).
- 4 Morning or Evening Prayer, from the canticle after the second lesson to the end of the service.
- 5 At the end of the service, prayers from sections 31–38 above may be used.