

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

Receiving the sacrament of baptism this morning is _____, daughter/son of _____ was born _____. (Her/his siblings are _____.)

Welcome

They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them, “let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.” And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

Address

The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ’s church, the sign and seal of their participation in God’s forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

Questions for the Parents and God-Parents

Pastor: Do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents and God Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach this child that (s)he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents and God Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ’s disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents and God Parents: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian Faith, to help this child to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ by celebrating Christ’s presence, by furthering Christ’s mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that she may affirm her baptism?

Parents and God Parents: We do with the help of God.

***Congregational Assent**

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

***Affirmation of Faith**

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.
Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Baptism (the pouring of the water)

Pastor: Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

We thank you, God for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Noah, you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning.

In the time of Moses, your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promise land.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ, who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb. Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in the one baptized this day that she may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

Act of Baptism

Pastor: By what name will your child be called?

Parents: [CHILD'S NAME]

Pastor: [NAME], I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: one God, Mother of us all.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The Holy Spirit be upon you, [NAME], child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church.

Prayer for the Baptized

We give you thanks, O Holy One, Mother and Father of all the faithful; for this, your child, and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ.

All: Give to the newly baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one.

Bless the parents and godparents of this child. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for [NAME].

Reprinted from *Book of Worship* © 1986 by permission of the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and leadership.