

The minister welcomes the candidate(s) into the local and universal Church, stressing the importance of belonging to the Christian community, the responsibilities of parents and godparents, and the challenge of growing in Christian discipleship.

President Faithful and loving God, bless those who care for *these children* and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith. Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love, and protect their homes from all evil. Fill them with the light of your presence and establish them in the joy of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

President God of grace and life, in your love you have given us a place among your people; keep us faithful to our baptism, and prepare us for that glorious day when the whole creation will be made perfect in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

The Welcome

President There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: *N and N*, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

All **We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.**

Those assembled may greet the newly baptized.

The Giving of a Lighted Candle

The minister or another person may give the newly baptized a lighted candle.

President God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

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

The Liturgy of Baptism

Presentation of the Candidate(s)

President Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them'. We thank God for *N and N*, who *have* come to be baptized today. Christ loves *them* and welcomes *them* into his Church. So I ask you all:

Will you support *these children* as *they* begin *their* journey of faith?

All **We will.**

President Will you help *them* to live and grow within God's family?

All **We will.**

The president then addresses the parents and godparents.

President God knows each of us by name and we are his. Parents and godparents, you speak for *N and N* today. Will you pray for *them*, and help *them* to follow Christ?

All **We will.**

The Decision

The president addresses the candidate through the parents, godparents and sponsors.

President We all wander far from God and lose our way: Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home. In baptism we respond to his call. Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?

I do.

President Do you reject evil?

I do.

The candidates, together with their parents, godparents and sponsors, may turn at this point.

President Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?
I do.

President Do you trust in him as Lord?
I do.

Signing with the Cross

The president makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, saying

President Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

The president may invite parents, godparents and sponsors to sign the candidate(s) with the cross.

President Do not be ashamed of Christ.
You are his for ever.

All **Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

President May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All **Amen.**

Prayer over the Water

The ministers and candidates gather at the baptismal font if they have not already done so. The president stands before the water of baptism.

President Praise God who made heaven and earth,
All **who keeps his promise for ever.**

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

President We praise you, loving Father, for the gift of your Son Jesus. He was baptized in the River Jordan, where your Spirit came upon him and revealed him as the Son you love. He sent his followers to baptize all who

turn to him. Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water, that those who are baptized in it may be cleansed in the water of life, and, filled with your Spirit, may know that they are loved as your children, safe in Christ for ever.

All **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

The president addresses those assembled.

President Let us affirm, together with *these who are being baptized*, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

President This is the faith of the Church.

All **This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Baptism

The president pours water on each candidate.

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

All **Amen.**

Commission