

# Infant Baptism

## Second Order

### 1 THE INTRODUCTION

*The minister reads this introduction:*

The Lord Jesus Christ said: 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. *Matthew 28:18-20*

Since the time of Abraham God's people have been given a sign of admission to his covenant by means of which God reassures his children that he is their God and they his people. In the New Testament baptism replaced circumcision as the sign, but the covenant itself remains the same. Those who believe God's promise and trust in Christ alone for salvation, are made the spiritual heirs of Abraham and the children of God.

Baptism signifies that, as water washes away dirt, so Christ's blood washes away sin. This blessing of cleansing from sin, along with new birth by the Holy Spirit, union with Christ and renewed spiritual life are promised to believers and their children, as Peter made clear when he said: The promise is for you and your children, and for all who are afar off—for all whom the Lord our God will call. *Acts 2: 39*

We read in the Gospels of the love Christ has for the children of the covenant and of his readiness to bless them. The Lord Jesus Christ is always the same. His promises are sure. But because we are all conceived and born with sinful natures, and our Saviour Christ says: No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Holy Spirit (*John 3: 5*), I urge you to call upon God the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that, by his infinite mercy he will give to *this child* what by nature *he* cannot have, namely, that *he* may be baptized with water and the Holy Spirit, received into Christ's holy church, and made *an active member* of the same.

## 2

All **Almighty and everlasting God,  
we ask you to have mercy on *this child*.  
Fill *him* with the Holy Spirit,  
give to *him* a knowledge of the forgiveness of sin,  
deliver *him* from your wrath,  
and grant that *he* may grow in the fear and  
knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## 3 THE DUTIES OF PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

*The minister invites the parent(s) and godparents to stand and says:*

The *child* you have brought to baptism *depends* chiefly on you for the help and encouragement *he* needs. I ask therefore:

Are you yourself a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, a member of his church and one who sincerely believes the promises of God?

Answer **I am.**

Minister It is your duty to provide at every stage of *this child's* growth instruction in Christian doctrine. Especially you must teach *him* to trust in Christ alone as the only way to forgiveness and salvation. Are you willing to sponsor *this child*, to accept responsibility for *his* Christian upbringing and to pray for *him* regularly?

Answer **I am willing.**

## 4 THE DECLARATION OF REPENTANCE, FAITH, AND OBEDIENCE

*The minister addresses the parent(s) and godparents:*

Minister *This child* is too young to profess repentance, faith, and obedience for *himself*. I therefore ask you to answer these questions on *his* behalf until *he* is old enough to speak for *himself*.

Do you renounce the devil and all his works, the empty show and false values of the world, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that you will not follow nor be led by them?

Answer **I renounce them all.**

Minister Do you believe and trust in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to die for us?

Do you believe and trust in his only Son Jesus Christ, who was crucified for our sins, rose from the dead, and is the only way of salvation?

Answer Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who enables us to receive God's word, repent, and believe the Gospel?

Answer **I believe and trust in the one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

Minister Will you keep God's holy will and commandments all the days of your life?

Answer **I will, with the help of God.**

5

All **O Lord our heavenly Father,  
we thank you that by your infinite love and mercy,  
you have made a covenant with us in your dear Son,  
the Lord Jesus Christ,  
in which you have promised that you will be our God,  
and we shall be your children.  
Grant that *this child*  
may know you as *his* heavenly Father,  
and enter your kingdom through faith in your beloved Son.  
Grant *him* power, strength and victory in Christ  
over the world, the flesh, and the devil;  
and, give *him* all spiritual blessings and grace  
that *he* may ever live to your praise and glory,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## 6 THE BAPTISM

*The minister baptizes the child with water, first saying to the parent(s) and godparents:*

Name this child.

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

7 THE CHARGE *All pray:*

We receive you into Christ's congregation,  
and sign you with the sign of the cross.

We pray that you will not be ashamed  
to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**All Fight bravely under his banner  
against sin, the world, and the devil;  
and continue Christ's faithful *soldier*  
and *servant* to the end of your *life*. Amen.**

## 8 THE LORD'S PRAYER

	<i>either</i>	<i>or</i>
<b>All</b>	<b>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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.</b>	<b>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.</b>

9 *All join in praying for the parent(s) and godparents:*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we pray for the parent(s) and godparents of *this child*.  
Give to them spiritual wisdom and grace  
that they may keep the vows which they have made  
and bring up *this child*  
in the fear and nurture of the Lord.  
And grant that at the last they may receive  
the eternal joys of heaven;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

10 *The minister addresses the parent(s) and godparents:*

It is your duty as parent(s) and godparents to see that *N is* taught, as soon as *he is* able to learn, the promises you have made in *his* name. And it is your responsibility to ensure that *he is* taught the Christian faith and what it means to trust in Christ. You must encourage *him* to lead a godly, Christian life and to follow the example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And you are ensure that, when old enough, *he* publicly *confirms his* baptismal promises.

11 *The minister may conclude with the GRACE:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.