

Infant Baptism

First Order

1 *The minister says these words of EXHORTATION:*

The Scriptures teach that all people are conceived and born with a sinful nature; and because our Saviour Christ says that no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Holy Spirit, I ask you to call upon God, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to have mercy on *this child* and to give *him* that which 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 *a* living *member* of the same.

2 *The minister says:*

Let us pray.

All **Almighty and eternal God,
who in mercy saved Noah and his family
in the days of the flood,
and who safely led the children of Israel
through the waters of the Red Sea,
symbolising thereby holy baptism;
and by the baptism of your Son, Jesus Christ,
sanctified water to represent the washing away of sin:
look in mercy on *this child*.
Wash *him*, and sanctify *him* with the Holy Spirit;
deliver *him* from your wrath;
receive *him* into the ark of Christ's church;
make *him* firm in faith and joyful through hope;
and fill *him* with your love so that,
passing through the waters of this troubled world,
he may finally come to the land of everlasting life,
there to reign with you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
you give aid to the needy, strength to the helpless,
and eternal life to those who believe.
Grant to *this child*, who comes to be baptized,
forgiveness of sins and spiritual regeneration.
According to your promise receive *him*,
and make *him an heir* of eternal salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

3 *The minister reads these words from the Gospel of Mark:*

Hear these words of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in the tenth chapter of Mark's Gospel, verses 13-16:

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And he took the children in his arms, put his hands upon them and blessed them.

4 *The minister continues:*

You hear in these words that our Saviour Christ invites children to be brought to him. He rebukes those who keep them from him and he exhorts us to show childlike trust. The way he embraced and blessed little children teaches us that he is ready to receive all who are brought to him. Be assured therefore that he, who encouraged his followers to bring their children to baptism, will receive, embrace, and give to them the blessing of eternal life. Therefore we pray:

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we humbly thank you for calling us to know you
and for teaching us to trust in you:
increase this knowledge
and strengthen this faith.
Give your Holy Spirit to *this child*,
that *he* may be born again
and made *an heir* of eternal salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. Amen.**

- 5 *The minister invites the parent(s) and godparents to stand, and says these words to them:*

You have brought *this child* to be baptized. You have prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ will receive *him*, forgive *him*, sanctify *him* with the Holy Spirit, and make *him an heir* to heaven and eternal life. You have heard also that our Lord has promised all these things in his gospel and we know that he keeps his promises.

At baptism we promise to reject the devil and all evil, constantly to believe God's Word, and to obey his commands. Children should make their own response of faith and obedience towards God, but as *this child is* at present too young to answer for *himself* it is proper that this commitment be made in *his* name until *he is* old enough to take it upon *himself*. I ask therefore:

Do you, in the name of *this child*, 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 in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his one and only Son, our Lord? And that he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; that he went down to the dead, and also rose again the third day; that he ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from there shall come again at the end of the world to judge the living and the dead?

And do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and eternal life after death?

Answer **All this I firmly believe.**

Minister Do you in the name of *this child* desire baptism?

Answer **That is my desire.**

Minister Will you then obey God's commands and serve him faithfully all the days of your life?
Answer **I will, with the help of God.**

6 *The minister says:*

Let us pray.

Merciful God, grant that the old Adam in *this child* may be buried, and that *he* may be raised a new *man* in Christ. **Amen.**

Grant that the sinful desires of the flesh may die in *him*, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *him*. **Amen.**

Grant that by faith *he* may have power and strength to have victory and to triumph over the devil, the world, and the flesh. **Amen.**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ shed from his side both water and blood for the forgiveness of our sins; and commanded his disciples to go and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: hear our prayer. Consecrate this water to signify the washing away of sin; and grant that *this child* now to be baptized in it, may receive the fullness of your grace and be numbered among your chosen and believing children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

7 *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.**

8 THE CHARGE

We receive you into
the congregation of Christ's flock
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* until the end of your *life*. Amen.**

9 *The minister continues:*

Now that *this child* is a baptized member of the Christian church, let us give thanks to God and pray that *he* will live the rest of *his life* according to this beginning.

10 THE LORD'S PRAYER:

	<i>either</i>	<i>or</i>
All	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.	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.

11 *Then the minister says:*

We praise you, most merciful Father, that all whom you receive and adopt as your own are spiritually regenerate and made true members of your church; and we pray you to grant that *this child*, being buried and raised with Christ, may have victory over sin, the world and the devil, that *he* may live *a righteous life*, and that at the end *he* may inherit your eternal kingdom along with all your faithful people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

It is now your duty as parent(s) and godparents to see that *this child 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.

To this end you should bring *him* to church to receive instruction in God's Word, and in particular you should see that *he is* taught the Lord's prayer, the ten commandments, the creed and the catechism. You are to encourage *him* to lead a godly, Christian life and to follow the example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And you are to ensure that, when old enough, *he* publicly *confirms his* baptismal promises in the presence of the bishop.

13 *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.**