

Baptism and Confirmation

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Holy Baptism

Structure

¶ Preparation

The Greeting

Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child

Introduction *

† *Presentation of the Candidates*

The Collect *

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Readings and Psalm

Gospel Reading

Sermon

¶ The Liturgy of Baptism

† Presentation of the Candidates

The Decision

Signing with the Cross

Prayer over the Water *

Profession of Faith *

Baptism

Commission

† Prayers of Intercession *

The Welcome and Peace *

† *Prayers of Intercession* *

¶ The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Giving of Communion

Prayer after Communion *

¶ The Sending Out

The Blessing *

Giving of a Lighted Candle

The Dismissal

† *indicates alternative position allowed and shown indented in italics*

* *indicates alternative texts are provided*

For Notes, see pages 98–101.

Pastoral Introduction

This may be read by those present before the service begins.

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the candidates but also parents, godparents and sponsors, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith. The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian way. There is the sign of the cross, the badge of faith in the Christian journey, which reminds us of Christ's death for us. Our 'drowning' in the water of baptism, where we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life, unites us to Christ's dying and rising, a picture that can be brought home vividly by the way the baptism is administered. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit. This reminds us of Jesus' baptism. And as a sign of that new life, there may be a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptized walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

As you pray for the candidates, picture them with yourself and the whole Church throughout the ages, journeying into the fullness of God's love.

Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

John 10.10

Holy Baptism

Preparation

At the entry of the ministers a hymn may be sung.

The Greeting

The president says

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all

All **and also with you.**

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

The president may use the prayer of thanksgiving (see page 166).

Introduction

The president may use these or other words.

(For seasonal Introductions, see pages 150–165.)

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us
that to enter the kingdom of heaven
we must be born again of water and the Spirit,
and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth.
Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean.
Here we are clothed with Christ,
dying to sin that we may live his risen life.
As children of God, we have a new dignity
and God calls us to fullness of life.

The Gloria in excelsis may be used.

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.

*Either the Collect of the Day, or this Collect is said.
(For seasonal Collects, see pages 150–165.)*

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by the 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 in the unity of the Holy Spirit
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

The readings of the day are normally used on Sundays, Principal Feasts, other Principal Holy Days and Festivals. For other occasions, see pages 150–165 and 167.

Either one or two readings from Scripture may precede the Gospel reading.

At the end of each the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The psalm or canticle follows the first reading; other hymns and songs may be used between the readings.

Gospel Reading

An acclamation may herald the Gospel reading.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Liturgy of Baptism

Presentation of the Candidates

The candidates may be presented to the congregation. Where appropriate, they may be presented by their godparents or sponsors.

The president asks those candidates for baptism who are able to answer for themselves

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

Testimony by the candidate(s) may follow.

The president addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number
those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome *these children/candidates*
and uphold *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

All With the help of God, we will.

At the baptism of children, the president then says to the parents and godparents

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *these children* with joy.

Today we are trusting God for *their* growth in faith.

Will you pray for *them*,

draw *them* by your example into the community of faith
and walk with *them* in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism *these children* begin *their* journey in faith.

You speak for *them* today.

Will you care for *them*,

and help *them* to take *their* place

within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

A large candle may be lit. The president addresses the candidates directly, or through their parents, godparents and sponsors

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.
Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Where there are strong pastoral reasons, the alternative form of the Decision (page 168) may be used.

Signing with the Cross

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

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

The president may invite parents, godparents and sponsors to sign the candidates with the cross. When all the candidates have been signed, the president says

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

All **Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory,
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.
A canticle, psalm, hymn or litany may be used (see pages 169–176).*

*The president stands before the water of baptism and says
(optional seasonal and responsive forms are provided on
pages 150–165 and 177)*

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.
Through water you led the children of Israel
from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.
In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,
to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,

we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
they may be cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith
and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

The president addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with *these candidates* the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Where there are strong pastoral reasons the alternative Profession of Faith (page 178) may be used.

Baptism

If the candidate(s) can answer for themselves, the president may say to each one

N, is this your faith?

Each candidate answers in their own words, or

This is my faith.

The president or another minister dips each candidate in water, or pours water on them, saying

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

All **Amen.**

If the newly baptized are clothed with a white robe, a hymn or song may be used, and then a minister may say

You have been clothed with Christ.
As many as are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

If those who have been baptized were not signed with the cross immediately after the Decision, the president signs each one now.

The president says

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All **Amen.**

The president and those who have been baptized may return from the font.

Commission

Either *Where the newly baptized are unable to answer for themselves, a minister addresses the congregation, parents and godparents, using these or similar words*

We have brought *these children* to baptism knowing that Jesus died and rose again for *them* and trusting in the promise that God hears and answers prayer. We have prayed that in Jesus Christ *they* will know the forgiveness of *their* sins and the new life of the Spirit.

As *they* grow up, *they* will need the help and encouragement of the Christian community, so that *they* may learn to know God in public worship and private prayer, follow Jesus Christ in the life of faith, serve *their* neighbour after the example of Christ, and in due course come to confirmation.

As part of the Church of Christ, we all have a duty to support *them* by prayer, example and teaching. As *their* parents and godparents, you have the prime responsibility for guiding and helping *them* in *their* early years. This is a demanding task for which you will need the help and grace of God. Therefore let us now pray for grace in guiding *these children* in the way of faith.

One or more of the following prayers may be used

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 home 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.

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.

These words may be added

N and N,
today God has touched you with his love
and given you a place among his people.
God promises to be with you
in joy and in sorrow,
to be your guide in life,
and to bring you safely to heaven.
In baptism God invites you on a life-long journey.
Together with all God's people
you must explore the way of Jesus
and grow in friendship with God,
in love for his people,
and in serving others.
With us you will listen to the word of God
and receive the gifts of God.

or *Here or at the beginning of the Sending Out, a minister may say to the newly baptized who are able to answer for themselves*

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your heart(s) through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Either here or after the Welcome and Peace, intercessions may be led by the president or others. These or other suitable words may be used. For seasonal forms and an alternative form, see pages 150–165 and 179. The intercession may conclude with a Collect.

As a royal priesthood, let us pray to the Father through Christ who ever lives to intercede for us.

Reveal your kingdom among the nations;
may peace abound and justice flourish.

Especially for ...

Your name be hallowed.

All Your kingdom come.

Send down upon us the gift of the Spirit
and renew your Church with power from on high.

Especially for ...

Your name be hallowed.

All Your kingdom come.

Deliver the oppressed, strengthen the weak,
heal and restore your creation.

Especially for ...

Your name be hallowed.

All Your kingdom come.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Church on earth,
we join our prayers with all the saints in glory.

Your name be hallowed.

All Your kingdom come.

The Welcome and Peace

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.**

The congregation may greet the newly baptized.

*The president introduces the Peace in these or other suitable words.
(For seasonal Introductions to the Peace, see pages 150–165.)*

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

**All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.**

A minister may say

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

If the Liturgy of the Eucharist does not follow immediately, the service continues with suitable prayers, ending with the Lord's Prayer and the Sending Out (page 77).

¶ The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Order for Celebration of Holy Communion continues with

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The Eucharistic Prayer

This short Proper Preface may be used

And now we give you thanks
because by water and the Holy Spirit
you have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord;
you raise us to new life in him
and renew in us the image of your glory.

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Giving of Communion

Prayer after Communion

*The authorized Post Communion of the Day,
or a seasonal Post Communion (see pages 150–165),
or the following is used*

Eternal God, our beginning and our end,
preserve in your people the new life of baptism;
as Christ receives us on earth,
so may he guide us through the trials of this world
and enfold us in the joy of heaven,
where you live and reign,
one God for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

¶ The Sending Out

*If the words on page 73 have not been used earlier, a minister may
address the newly baptized who are able to answer for themselves,
using those words.*

The Blessing

*The president may use a seasonal blessing (pages 150–165),
or another suitable blessing, or*

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Giving of a Lighted Candle

*The president or another person may give each of the newly baptized
a lighted candle. These may be lit from the candle used at the Decision.*

When all the newly baptized have received a candle, the president says

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 Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

*From Easter Day to Pentecost Alleluia, alleluia may be added to both
the versicle and the response.*

Baptism within a Celebration of Holy Communion

The service for Holy Baptism provides for baptism in the context of the celebration of Holy Communion. The following notes aim to highlight the implication of this for baptism at a parish's regular Sunday celebration of Holy Communion.

- 1 The opening of the service should include an appropriate introduction and may include a prayer of thanksgiving for the child (page 166).
- 2 The Prayers of Penitence and the Nicene Creed are omitted.
- 3 The Presentation of the Candidates for Baptism takes place after the sermon. Alternatively it may form part of the opening section of the service; before the Gloria or Kyries (where these are used). If the presentation is used in this earlier position, it must precede the Collect.
- 4 Baptism takes place after the sermon.
- 5 An interrogatory version of the Apostles' Creed is provided in the text, to be said by the whole congregation. The Apostles' Creed is the normal baptismal creed in the Western tradition. A shorter Profession of Faith can be found at page 178.
- 6 The first form of the Commission is to be used at the baptism of children. The second form is to be used at the baptism of those able to answer for themselves.
- 7 A brief form of the Prayers of Intercession is provided. Longer and seasonal forms are to be found on pages 150–165. The Prayers may be placed before or after the Welcome. If the Prayers precede the Welcome and Peace, the Liturgy of the Eucharist then continues in the usual way with the Preparation of the Table and the Taking of the Bread and Wine.
- 8 A lighted candle is presented to the newly baptized as part of the conclusion of the service. It may be appropriate to invite the parents and godparents to the front at this point. The candle is lit from the Paschal candle (or other large candle) previously lit at the Decision.

The following table indicates how the service for Holy Baptism is to be used with the services indicated.

Order of Baptism	Order One	Order Two / BCP
[<i>Thanksgiving</i>] Introduction	After the Greeting [<i>omit Prayers of Penitence</i>]	After the Sermon
	Omit Nicene Creed	Omit Nicene Creed
Presentation	After the Greeting or Sermon	After the Introduction
Baptism	After the Sermon	After the Presentation
Prayers of Intercession	At the Intercessions [<i>omit Prayers of Penitence</i>]	Use Prayers of Intercession from Holy Baptism in place of Prayer for Church Militant
Welcome and Peace	At the Peace	Use the Welcome after the Commission
Prayer after Communion	After the Giving of Bread and Wine	Do not use
Giving of a Lighted Candle	Between the Blessing and Dismissal	After the Blessing

Baptism apart from a Celebration of Holy Communion

Structure

¶ Preparation

The Greeting
Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child
Introduction *
† *Presentation of the Candidates*
The Collect *

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Readings and Psalm
Gospel Reading
Sermon

¶ The Liturgy of Baptism

† Presentation of the Candidates
The Decision
Signing with the Cross
Prayer over the Water *
Profession of Faith *
Baptism
Commission
† *Prayers of Intercession* *
The Welcome and Peace *
† *Prayers of Intercession* *
The Lord's Prayer

¶ The Sending Out

The Blessing *
Giving of a Lighted Candle
The Dismissal

† *indicates alternative position allowed and shown indented in italics*

* *indicates alternative texts are provided*

Baptism apart from a Celebration of Holy Communion

¶ Preparation

At the entry of the ministers a hymn may be sung.

The Greeting

The president says

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all

All **and also with you.**

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

The president may use the prayer of thanksgiving (see page 166).

Introduction

*The president may use these or other words.
(For seasonal Introductions, see pages 150–165.)*

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us
that to enter the kingdom of heaven
we must be born again of water and the Spirit,
and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth.
Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean.
Here we are clothed with Christ,
dying to sin that we may live his risen life.
As children of God, we have a new dignity
and God calls us to fullness of life.

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.

*Either the Collect of the Day, or this Collect is said.
(For seasonal Collects, see pages 150–165.)*

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by the 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 in the unity of the Holy Spirit
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

The readings of the day are normally used on Sundays, Principal Feasts, other Principal Holy Days and Festivals. For other occasions, see pages 150–165 and 167.

Either one or two readings from Scripture may precede the Gospel reading.

At the end of each the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The psalm or canticle follows the first reading; other hymns and songs may be used between the readings.

Gospel Reading

An acclamation may herald the Gospel reading.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Presentation of the Candidates

The candidates may be presented to the congregation. Where appropriate, they may be presented by their godparents or sponsors.

The president asks those candidates for baptism who are able to answer for themselves

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

Testimony by the candidate(s) may follow.

The president addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number
those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome *these children/candidates*
and uphold *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

All With the help of God, we will.

At the baptism of children, the president then says to the parents and godparents

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *these children* with joy.

Today we are trusting God for *their* growth in faith.

Will you pray for *them*,

draw *them* by your example into the community of faith

and walk with *them* in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism *these children* begin *their* journey in faith.

You speak for *them* today.

Will you care for *them*,

and help *them* to take *their* place

within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

A large candle may be lit. The president addresses the candidates directly, or through their parents, godparents and sponsors

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.
Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Where there are strong pastoral reasons, the alternative form of the Decision (page 168) may be used.

Signing with the Cross

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

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

The president may invite parents, godparents and sponsors to sign the candidates with the cross. When all the candidates have been signed, the president says

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

All **Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory,
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.
A canticle, psalm, hymn or litany may be used (see pages 169–176).*

*The president stands before the water of baptism and says
(optional seasonal and responsive forms are provided on
pages 150–165 and 177)*

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

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

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.
Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.
Through water you led the children of Israel
from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.
In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,
to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.
In it we are buried with Christ in his death.
By it we share in his resurrection.
Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.
Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,
we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
they may be cleansed from sin and born again.
Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith
and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

The president addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with *these candidates* the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Where there are strong pastoral reasons the alternative Profession of Faith (page 178) may be used.

Baptism

If the candidate(s) can answer for themselves, the president may say to each one

N, is this your faith?

Each candidate answers in their own words, or

This is my faith.

The president or another minister dips each candidate in water, or pours water on them, saying

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

All **Amen.**

If the newly baptized are clothed with a white robe, a hymn or song may be used, and then a minister may say

You have been clothed with Christ.
As many as are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

If those who have been baptized were not signed with the cross immediately after the Decision, the president signs each one now.

The president says

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All **Amen.**

The president and those who have been baptized may return from the font.

Commission

Either *Where the newly baptized are unable to answer for themselves, a minister addresses the congregation, parents and godparents, using these or similar words*

We have brought *these children* to baptism knowing that Jesus died and rose again for *them* and trusting in the promise that God hears and answers prayer. We have prayed that in Jesus Christ *they* will know the forgiveness of *their* sins and the new life of the Spirit.

As *they* grow up, *they* will need the help and encouragement of the Christian community, so that *they* may learn to know God in public worship and private prayer, follow Jesus Christ in the life of faith, serve *their* neighbour after the example of Christ, and in due course come to confirmation.

As part of the Church of Christ, we all have a duty to support *them* by prayer, example and teaching. As *their* parents and godparents, you have the prime responsibility for guiding and helping *them* in *their* early years. This is a demanding task for which you will need the help and grace of God. Therefore let us now pray for grace in guiding *these children* in the way of faith.

One or more of the following prayers may be used

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 home 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.

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.

These words may be added

N and N,
today God has touched you with his love
and given you a place among his people.
God promises to be with you
in joy and in sorrow,
to be your guide in life,
and to bring you safely to heaven.
In baptism God invites you on a life-long journey.
Together with all God's people
you must explore the way of Jesus
and grow in friendship with God,
in love for his people,
and in serving others.
With us you will listen to the word of God
and receive the gifts of God.

or *Here or at the beginning of the Sending Out, a minister may say to the newly baptized who are able to answer for themselves*

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your heart(s) through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Amen.

The Welcome and Peace

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.**

The congregation may greet the newly baptized.

*The president introduces the Peace in these or other suitable words.
(For seasonal Introductions to the Peace, see pages 150–165.)*

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

A minister may say

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

¶ Prayers of Intercession

Intercessions may be led by the president or others. These or other suitable words may be used. For seasonal forms and an alternative form, see pages 150–165 and 179. The intercession concludes with the Lord's Prayer.

As a royal priesthood, let us pray to the Father
through Christ who ever lives to intercede for us.

Reveal your kingdom among the nations;
may peace abound and justice flourish.

Especially for ...

Your name be hallowed.

All **Your kingdom come.**

Send down upon us the gift of the Spirit
and renew your Church with power from on high.

Especially for ...

Your name be hallowed.

All **Your kingdom come.**

Deliver the oppressed, strengthen the weak,
heal and restore your creation.

Especially for ...

Your name be hallowed.

All **Your kingdom come.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Church on earth,
we join our prayers with all the saints in glory.

Your name be hallowed.

All **Your kingdom come.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

(or)

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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.**

¶ The Sending Out

If the words on page 73 have not been used earlier, a minister may address the newly baptized who are able to answer for themselves, using those words.

The Blessing

The president may use a seasonal blessing (pages 150–165), or another suitable blessing, or

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Giving of a Lighted Candle

The president or another person may give each of the newly baptized a lighted candle. These may be lit from the candle used at the Decision.

When all the newly baptized have received a candle, the president says

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 Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

From Easter Day to Pentecost Alleluia, alleluia may be added to both the versicle and the response.

Baptism at a Service of the Word

Any minister may preside over A Service of the Word, the Prayers and the Commission. The minister of baptism, who is the parish priest or other minister authorized to administer Holy Baptism, must preside over the Liturgy of Baptism.

Where alternative forms are provided in the service for Holy Baptism, they may be used with A Service of the Word.

- 1 The Prayers of Penitence are not used.
- 2 The Creed or Affirmation of Faith is replaced by the Profession of Faith.
- 3 The following may be used as part of the Preparation or after the Liturgy of the Word:
 - Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child (page 166)
 - Introduction (page 63)
 - Presentation of the Candidates (page 66).
- 4 After the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of Baptism (pages 66–75) follows, omitting the Presentation of the Candidates (page 66), if used earlier, and the Prayers of Intercession (page 74), if they are to be used later.
- 5 The Prayers of Intercession may be used before or after the Welcome or later in the service.
- 6 The Giving of a Lighted Candle takes place at the conclusion of the service. Alternatively it may take place after the administration of baptism.

The Notes to the service for Holy Baptism (pages 98–101) apply to the Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child, the Liturgy of Baptism and the Giving of a Lighted Candle.

Baptism at Morning or Evening Prayer

When appropriate, the service of Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer may be abbreviated. The Prayers of Penitence may be omitted, and the Creed is omitted, being replaced by one of the interrogatory forms provided in the service for Holy Baptism.

The service follows this order:

- ¶ The introduction to the service. This may include
 - Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child (page 166)
 - Introduction (page 63)
 - Presentation of the Candidates (page 66)
- ¶ Morning or Evening Prayer to the end of the second reading
- ¶ The Liturgy of Baptism (pages 66–75) omitting the Presentation of the Candidates (page 66), if used earlier, and the Prayers of Intercession (page 74). The Peace may also be omitted.
- ¶ Morning or Evening Prayer from the canticle after the second reading, omitting the Apostles' Creed
- ¶ At the prayers, appropriate intercessions from the service for Holy Baptism may be used (see pages 74, 150–165 and 179).
- ¶ The service concludes with the Sending Out (page 77).

The Notes to the service for Holy Baptism (pages 98–101) apply to the Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child, the Liturgy of Baptism and the Sending Out.

Notes to Holy Baptism

Holy Baptism is normally administered by the parish priest in the course of public worship on Sunday 'when the most number of people come together' (Canon B 21).

1 Minister of Baptism

Where rubrics speak of 'the president', this indicates the parish priest or other minister authorized to administer Holy Baptism. When the bishop is present he normally presides over the whole service. Parts of the service not assigned to the president may be delegated to others.

2 Ordering of the Service

Pages 60–61, 63–67 and 78–79 show how baptism is to be administered within a celebration of Holy Communion. Pages 96–97 show how it is to be administered at A Service of the Word and at Morning or Evening Prayer. When baptism is administered within a celebration of Holy Communion, the Notes to the Order for the Celebration of Holy Communion apply equally to this service. The structure of the service, however, enables it to be used as a significant celebration on its own and there may be occasions where such a celebration of Holy Baptism forms a main Sunday act of worship. Whenever Holy Baptism is administered there shall be a sermon.

3 Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child

This option (see page 166) may be used where it is appropriate to express thanksgiving for a child to be baptized later in the service; this may be inserted as part of the Preparation. This is not intended to preclude the use of a separate service of Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child.

4 Presentation of the Candidates

The Presentation may follow the Introduction where circumstances make this appropriate.

5 Collect, Readings and Other Variable Texts

The Collect and readings for the Sunday should normally be used, especially on Sundays between the First Sunday of Advent and the Feast of the Presentation of Christ, and between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday. The Collects provided in the rite and its Supplementary Texts may, however, be substituted on Sundays between the Presentation of Christ and the beginning of Lent and between Trinity Sunday and the beginning of Advent even when the normal Sunday readings are used. The Collects and readings provided in the service or in its Supplementary Texts are for use on occasions when baptism is the predominant element in the service. The basic form of the service remains constant. Within this structure seasonal material may also be used (see pages 150–165). This is linked to occasions in the Christian year when its use might be particularly appropriate.

6 Godparents and Sponsors

The term 'godparent' is used for those asked to present children for baptism and to continue to support them. The term 'sponsor' is used for those who agree to support in the journey of faith candidates (of any age) for baptism, confirmation or affirmation of baptismal faith. It is not necessary that a candidate have the same person as godparent and sponsor. When children who are old enough to speak are baptized, such children, at the discretion of the parish priest, also answer the questions at the Decision with parents and godparents.

7 Hymns and Silence

If occasion requires, hymns may be sung and silence may be kept at points other than those which are indicated.

8 Corporate Responses

When members of a family are baptized at the same time, the questions at the Decision may be answered in the form 'We reject ...'.

9 Profession of Faith

The whole congregation joins in the Apostles' Creed at the Profession of Faith or makes the responses in the Alternative Profession of Faith (page 178).

10 Use of Oil

Where it has been agreed that oil will be used, pure olive oil, reflecting the practice of athletes preparing for a contest, may be used for the Signing with the Cross. Oil mixed with fragrant spices (traditionally called chrism), expressing the blessings of the messianic era and the richness of the Holy Spirit, may be used to accompany the prayer after the baptism. It is appropriate that the oil should have been consecrated by the bishop.

11 Signing with the Cross

At the Signing with the Cross, after the president or other minister has made the sign using the words provided, parents, godparents and sponsors may also be invited to make the sign of the cross. It is sufficient if the people join in and say their part once only, when all the candidates have been signed. The possibility of signing with the cross at the prayer after the baptism is provided for, but if this is done it should be accompanied by the text provided at that point in the rite, not the text provided for the Signing with the Cross after the Decision. If signing takes place after the baptism, it must follow the administration of water as a separate action.

12 Administration of Water

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. The use of a substantial amount of water is desirable; water must at least flow on the skin of the candidate. The president may delegate the act of baptism to another lawful minister.

13 Conditional Baptism

If it is not certain whether a person has already been baptized with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, then the usual service of baptism is used, but the form of words at the baptism shall be

N, if you have not already been baptized, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

14 Clothing

Provision is made for clothing after the baptism. This may be a practical necessity where dipping is the mode of baptism employed; the text provided draws on ancient tradition, linking practical necessity and scriptural imagery.

15 Commission

The text provided should normally be used; however, it may be paraphrased by the minister if pastoral circumstances require. Alternatively its contents may be included in the sermon. If the newly baptized are able to answer for themselves, the Commission may be deferred until the beginning of the Sending Out.

16 Prayers of Intercession

General intercession should normally be part of the service. Such prayers draw the newly baptized into the praying Church of which they are now a part. It may be appropriate for the newly baptized to introduce sections of these prayers. Prayers in responsive form are provided; one of the forms of prayer on pages 150–165 and 179 may be used. The Prayers may be used after the Welcome and Peace.

17 Giving of a Lighted Candle

The Paschal candle or another large candle is made ready so that it may be lit at the Decision. Individual candles may be lit from it and given to candidates as part of the Sending Out. The giving of lighted candles may take place at an earlier stage in the service, after the administration of baptism.

18 Renewal of Baptismal Vows

When the Renewal of Baptismal Vows takes place within a service of Holy Baptism and/or Confirmation, the responses of the people may follow the responses of the candidates, for example:

Do you reject ... ?

Candidates **I reject ...**

All **I reject ...**

or the people may make the responses with the candidates.

Emergency Baptism

For Notes, see page 105.

The following form is sufficient.

The minister pours water on the person to be baptized, saying

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

All Amen.

The minister may then say the Lord's Prayer and the Grace or a blessing.

If it is appropriate, some of the following may also be used.

Before the Baptism

Jesus says: I have come that you may have life
and have it in all its fullness.

John 10.10

All that the Father gives me will come to me;
and whoever comes to me I will not turn away.

John 6.37

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and will save those who are crushed in spirit.

Psalms 34.18

Heavenly Father,
grant that by your Holy Spirit
this child may be born again
and know your love in the new creation
given us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

At the Signing with the Cross

N, may Christ protect and defend you.
Receive the sign of his cross.

Prayer over the Water

Heavenly Father,
bless this water,
that whoever is washed in it
may be made one with Christ
in the fellowship of your Church,
and be brought through every tribulation
to share the risen life
that is ours in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

After the Baptism

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

(or)

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

Eternal God, our beginning and our end,
 preserve in your people the new life of baptism;
 as Christ receives us on earth,
 so may he guide us through the trials of this world,
 and enfold us in the joy of heaven,
 where you live and reign,
 one God for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

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

All **Amen.**

(or)

May God almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 bless and keep you this day and for evermore.

All **Amen.**

- 1 In an emergency, a lay person may be the minister of baptism, and should subsequently inform those who have the pastoral responsibility for the person so baptized.
- 2 Parents are responsible for requesting emergency baptism for an infant. They should be assured that questions of ultimate salvation or of the provision of a Christian funeral for an infant who dies do not depend upon whether or not the child has been baptized.
- 3 Before baptizing, the minister should ask the name of the person to be baptized. When, through the absence of parents or for some other reason, there is uncertainty as to the name of the person, the baptism can be properly administered without a name (so long as the identity of the person baptized can be duly recorded).

Service in Church

- 4 If the person lives, they shall afterwards come to church, or be brought to church, and the service for Holy Baptism followed, except that the Signing with the Cross, the Prayer over the Water and the Baptism are omitted.
- 5 It may be appropriate to use the Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child (page 166).
- 6 At the Presentation the president says

We welcome *N*, who has been baptized and now comes to take *his/her* place in the company of God's people.
- 7 Oil mixed with fragrant spices (traditionally called chrism), expressing the blessings of the messianic era and the richness of the Holy Spirit, may be used to accompany the prayer after the baptism. It is appropriate that the oil should have been consecrated by the bishop.

Holy Baptism and Confirmation

Structure

Optional parts of the service are indicated by square brackets.

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Baptism and Confirmation within a Celebration of Holy Communion

The Collect

¶ Preparation

At the entry of the ministers, a hymn may be sung.

The Greeting

The bishop greets the people, using these or other suitable words

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

From Easter Day to Pentecost this acclamation follows

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

There is one body and one spirit.

All **There is one hope to which we were called;**

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

All **one God and Father of all.**

Peace be with you

All **and also with you.**

The bishop may introduce the service.

The Gloria in excelsis may be used.

The bishop introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.

The Collect of the Day is normally used on Sundays, Principal Feasts, other Principal Holy Days and Festivals. On other occasions a seasonal collect (pages 150–165) or this Collect is used

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by the 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 in the unity of the Holy Spirit
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

The readings of the day are normally used on Sundays, Principal Feasts, other Principal Holy Days and Festivals. For other occasions, see pages 150–165 and 167.

Either one or two readings from Scripture may precede the Gospel reading.

At the end of each the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The psalm or canticle follows the first reading; other hymns and songs may be used between the readings.

Gospel Reading

An acclamation may herald the Gospel reading.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

¶ The Liturgy of Initiation

Presentation of the Candidates

The candidates may be presented to the congregation. Where appropriate, they may be presented by their godparents or sponsors. If there are infants for baptism, the direction in Note I (page 128) is followed.

The bishop asks those who are candidates for baptism

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

The bishop asks the candidates for confirmation who have been baptized (together with those who wish to affirm their baptismal faith and/or those who are to be received into the communion of the Church of England)

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

I have.

The bishop asks all the candidates

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

I am.

Testimony by the candidates may follow.

The bishop addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome *these candidates* and uphold *them* in *their* life in Christ?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

If children are to be baptized, the questions to parents and godparents in the service of Holy Baptism (page 66) are used.

The Decision

A large candle may be lit. The bishop addresses all the candidates

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.
Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?
I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?
I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God
and neighbour?
I repent of them.

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

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?
I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?
I come to Christ.

Where there are strong pastoral reasons, the alternative form of the Decision (page 168) may be used.

Signing with the Cross

The bishop or another minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for baptism, saying

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

The bishop may invite their sponsors to sign the candidates with the sign of the cross. When all the candidates for baptism have been signed, the bishop says to them

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

All **Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All **Amen.**

Or, when there are no candidates for baptism, he may say

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ,
give you the strength to continue in the Way.

All **Amen.**

Prayer over the Water

The ministers and candidates for baptism, together with candidates for confirmation, affirmation of baptismal faith and reception into the communion of the Church of England, gather at the baptismal font. A canticle, psalm, hymn or litany may be used (see pages 169–176).

When there are candidates for baptism, the bishop stands before the water of baptism and says (optional seasonal and responsive forms are provided on pages 150–165 and 177)

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

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

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.
Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.
Through water you led the children of Israel
from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.
In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,
to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.
In it we are buried with Christ in his death.
By it we share in his resurrection.
Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.
Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,
we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
they may be cleansed from sin and born again.
Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith
and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

The bishop addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess
together with *these candidates*
the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?
All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?
All **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?
All **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Baptism

The bishop may address each candidate for baptism by name, saying
N, is this your faith?

and candidates answer in their own words, or

This is my faith.

*The bishop or another minister dips each candidate in water,
or pours water on them, saying*

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

All **Amen.**

*If the newly baptized are clothed with a white robe, a hymn or song
may be used, and then a minister may say*

You have been clothed with Christ.
As many as are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

*If those who have been baptized were not signed with the cross
immediately after the Decision, the bishop signs each one now.*

The bishop says

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church,
pour upon you the riches of his grace,
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All **Amen.**

*If there are candidates for affirmation of baptismal faith the Declaration
on page 203 is used.*

*If there are candidates for reception into the communion of the Church
of England, the Declaration on page 217 is used.*

*The candidates for confirmation who have previously been baptized
(together with those affirming their baptismal faith or seeking reception)
may come forward to the font and sign themselves with water, or the
bishop may sprinkle them.*

Then the bishop says

Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptized into 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.

All **Amen.**

Confirmation

*The bishop and candidates gather at the place of confirmation.
A hymn, chant or litany may be used.*

The bishop stands before those who are 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.

The bishop extends his hands towards those to be confirmed and says

Almighty and ever-living God,
you have given these 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.

The bishop addresses each candidate by name

N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

He then lays his hand on the head of each, saying

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

Affirmation of Baptismal Faith and Reception into the Communion of the Church of England

*If there are candidates for affirmation of baptismal faith, the provision
on page 204 is used.*

*If there are candidates for reception into the communion of the Church
of England, the provision on page 218 is used.*

*The bishop invites the congregation to pray for all those on whom hands
have been laid*

**All Defend, O Lord, these 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.**

Commission

*The bishop may use this Commission here or at the beginning of the
Sending Out.*

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

The Prayers of Intercession may follow. It is appropriate that the newly baptized and confirmed take their part in leading the prayers. The prayers provided in the service of Holy Baptism may be used (see page 74). For seasonal forms and an alternative form, see pages 150–165 and 179.

If the Liturgy of the Eucharist does not follow immediately, the Prayers of Intercession may follow the Welcome and Peace (see also pages 126–127).

The Welcome and Peace

The bishop may address the newly baptized

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 in the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

The congregation may greet the newly baptized.

*The bishop introduces the Peace in these or other suitable words.
(For seasonal Introductions to the Peace, see pages 150–165.)*

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us
and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

A minister may say

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

If the Liturgy of the Eucharist does not follow immediately, the service concludes with suitable prayers (see above), ending with the Lord's Prayer and the Sending Out (pages 122–123).

¶ The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Order for Celebration of Holy Communion continues with

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The Eucharistic Prayer

This short Proper Preface may be used

And now we give you thanks
because by water and the Holy Spirit
you have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord,
you raise us to new life in him
and renew in us the image of your glory.

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Giving of Communion

Prayer after Communion

The authorized Post Communion of the Day is normally used on Sundays, Principal Feasts, other Principal Holy Days and Festivals. On other occasions a seasonal Post Communion (see pages 150–165), or the following is used

God of mercy,
by whose grace alone we are accepted
and equipped for your service:
stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Sending Out

If it has not been used earlier, the bishop may use the Commission (page 119).

The Blessing

The bishop may use a seasonal blessing (pages 150–165), or another suitable blessing, or

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Giving of a Lighted Candle

A hymn may be sung.

The bishop or another person may give each of the newly baptized and confirmed a lighted candle. These may be lit from the candle used at the Decision.

When all have received a candle, the bishop says

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 Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

From Easter Day to Pentecost Alleluia, alleluia may be added to both the versicle and the response.

The bishop may lead the newly baptized and confirmed through the church.

Confirmation within a Celebration of Holy Communion

If there are no candidates for Baptism, the following amendments are made to the service:

¶ The following is omitted from the Presentation of the Candidates (page 111):

The bishop asks those who are candidates for baptism

Do you wish to be baptized?
I do.

¶ At the end of the Decision (page 112), the following may be added:

The bishop says

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ,
give you also strength to continue in the Way.

All **Amen.**

¶ The Signing with the Cross (page 113) is omitted.

¶ On arrival at the font, the bishop may say the following prayer:

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God of all,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
You are our light and our salvation.
From the deep waters of death
you have raised your Son to life in triumph.
Grant that all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit,
may daily be renewed in your image,
walk by the light of faith,
and serve you in newness of life;
through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
we lift our voices of praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

¶ The following are omitted:

Prayer over the Water (page 114)

Baptism (page 116)

Welcome (page 120)

Baptism and Confirmation apart from a Celebration of Holy Communion

If the Liturgy of the Eucharist does not follow immediately, the service continues with the Prayers of Intercession (unless they have been used before the Welcome and Peace).

One or more of the following prayers may be used at the Prayers of Intercession

(by the bishop)

Heavenly Father, we pray for *these your servants* upon whom we have now laid our hands after the example of the apostles.

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 *they* may ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

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.

All **Amen.**

All **Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, let there be pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
for your mercy and for your truth's sake. Amen.**

All **Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits that 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.**

All **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.**

Then all say the Lord's Prayer (page 94).

The service concludes with the Sending Out.

Notes

1 Ordering of the service

The service is presided over by the bishop and the parts reserved to the bishop are indicated. All other parts may be delegated. This may include delegating the administration of the water of baptism to another lawful minister.

When baptism and confirmation are administered within a celebration of Holy Communion, the Notes to the Order for the Celebration of Holy Communion apply equally to this service.

The ordering of the service should take into account the arrangement of the building and its furnishings and the most appropriate way of involving those present. The places where baptism and confirmation are administered should be determined after consultation between the bishop and the parish priest. Nevertheless, wherever possible all candidates should make the profession of baptismal faith (even when there are no candidates for baptism) at the place of baptism, the font.

Provision is made for the baptism of those not able to answer for themselves. When these are children baptized at the same time as their parents, it is fitting that they are baptized immediately after their own parents. When members of a family are baptized at the same time, the questions at the Decision may be answered in the form 'We reject ...'

For the ordering of the service when there are no candidates for baptism, see pages 124–125. For baptism and confirmation apart from a celebration of Holy Communion, see pages 126–127.

2 Affirmation of Baptismal Faith

The provision for Affirmation of Baptismal Faith is intended for those who are already baptized and confirmed and who, after preparation and instruction, come to make a public act of commitment. It is not intended for use when an entire congregation renews its baptismal vows, for which separate provision is made (see pages 193–196).

3 Testimony

If candidates are to give testimony after the Presentation, it is important that this should be appropriate in length and style and not detract from the rest of the service. The bishop may, at his discretion, allow for testimony to be made at an earlier point in the service before the sermon. Testimony may be given in written form.

4 Hymns and silence

If occasion requires, hymns may be sung and silence may be kept at points other than those which are indicated.

5 Collect, readings and other variable texts

The collects, readings and variable prayers provided in the rite and its appendices are intended for use when the service does not form the usual Sunday service. Where baptism, confirmation, affirmation and reception take place in a usual Sunday service, the Collect and readings for the Sunday should normally be used, especially on Sundays between the First Sunday of Advent and the Presentation of Christ, and between the First Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday.

6 Use of oil

Where it has been agreed that oil will be used, pure olive oil, reflecting the practice of athletes preparing for a contest, may be used for the Signing with the Cross. Oil mixed with fragrant spices (traditionally called chrism), expressing the blessings of the messianic era and the richness of the Holy Spirit, may be used to accompany the confirmation and/or affirmation. Use of chrism at the prayer after baptism is not appropriate if confirmation follows immediately. It is appropriate that the oil should have been consecrated by the bishop.

7 Signing with the Cross

At the Signing with the Cross, after the bishop or other minister has made the sign using the words provided, sponsors may also be invited to make the sign of the cross. It is sufficient if the people join in and say their part once only, when all the candidates have been signed. The possibility of signing with the cross at the prayer after baptism is provided for, but if this is done it should be accompanied by the text provided at that part of the service, not the text provided for the Signing with the Cross after the Decision. If signing takes place after the baptism it must follow the administration of water as a separate act.

8 Conditional baptism

If it is not certain whether a person has already been baptized with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, then the usual service of baptism is used, but the form of words at the baptism shall be

N, if you have not already been baptized, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

9 Profession of Faith

The whole congregation joins in the Apostles' Creed at the Profession of Faith.

10 Clothing

Provision is made for clothing after the baptism. This may be a practical necessity where dipping is the mode of baptism employed; the text provided draws on ancient tradition, linking practical necessity and scriptural imagery.

11 Commission

If the Commission is to be used, it may be deferred until the beginning of the Sending Out.

12 Prayers of Intercession

The forms of prayer provided in the service for Holy Baptism may be used for the Prayers of Intercession.

13 The Blessing

The Blessing may be preceded by the following:

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.**

14 Giving of a Lighted Candle

The Paschal candle, or another large candle, may be lit at the Decision and individual candles may be lit from it and given to candidates, including the newly confirmed, as part of the Sending Out. The giving of lighted candles to the newly baptized may take place at an earlier stage in the rite after the administration of baptism, in which case candles are not given to the newly confirmed.

Celebration of Baptism and Confirmation within a Vigil Service

An Outline Order

Using the Seasonal Provisions (pages 150–165), this order is suitable for a Vigil service on the Eve of the Baptism of Christ, of Pentecost, or of All Saints' Day, or on Saturday evenings in Epiphany, in Eastertide, or in the period from All Saints' Day to Advent Sunday.

¶ The Service of Light

Responsory or short reading (Isaiah 43.1-3a) in the darkness
Chant (with reading of Genesis 1.1-3)
Acclamation at the blessing of the light *
Hymn (lighting of candles and entrance of ministers)
† Greeting and Introduction
† Presentation of the Candidates
† Collect *

¶ The Decision

Short Reading * (e.g. Acts 2.38-39, Romans 13.11-12, 1 Peter 2.9-10)
† Decision
† Signing with the Cross

¶ Baptism

Hymn (and procession to the place of Baptism)
New Testament Reading *
† Prayer over the Water *
† Profession of Faith
† Baptism (including post-baptismal prayers, and signing/sprinkling with water of those already baptized)

¶ Confirmation

Hymn (and procession to the place of Confirmation)
Gospel Acclamation and Gospel *
† Confirmation
† Welcome and Peace
Hymn

¶ The Prayers and Sending Out

Intercessions and concluding Collect *
Lord's Prayer
† Blessing *
Hymn (and lighting of candles)
† Giving of a Lighted Candle
† Dismissal

† *indicates a section of the Service of Baptism and Confirmation within a Celebration of Holy Communion (pages 108–123).*

* *indicates material for which seasonal resources are provided (see pages 150–165).*

Either a series of short homilies may be preached – one after the Short Reading and before the Decision; one after the New Testament Reading and before the Prayer over the Water; one after the Gospel and before the Confirmation – or a sermon may be preached after the Gospel.

Celebration of Baptism and Confirmation within a Vigil Service on the Eve of Pentecost

Notes

1 Seasonal variations

Using the relevant Seasonal Provisions (pages 150–165), this service may appropriately be celebrated on the Eve of the Baptism of Christ or on Saturdays in Epiphany, on Saturdays in Eastertide, and on the Eve of All Saints' Day or on Saturdays between All Saints' Day and Advent Sunday.

2 Holy Baptism and Confirmation

The Notes to Holy Baptism and Confirmation (pages 128–131) apply equally to this service.

3 Ministries

The bishop presides over the whole service, but may share with other ministers or delegate to them the Signing with the Cross. He may delegate the administration of the water of baptism to another lawful minister.

The deacon lights the large candle, says the Blessing of the Light and proclaims the Gospel.

Where there are a large number of candidates, the Bishop may invite suffragan or other assistant bishops to join him in laying on hands. In this case candidates come before each of the confirming bishops, who address each of them by name and may anoint them. The bishops then lay hands on the candidates before each of them, praying 'Confirm, O Lord, ...' together.

4 The Sermon

Either a series of short homilies may be preached – one after the Short Reading and before the Decision; one after the New Testament Reading and before the Prayer over the Water; and one after the Gospel and before the Confirmation – or a sermon may be preached after the Gospel.

5 Prayer of Intercession

In the Prayers of Intercession, the biddings are appropriately read by one of the newly baptized or confirmed. The Post Communion may be used to conclude the Prayers of Intercession.

Celebration of Baptism and Confirmation within a Vigil Service on the Eve of Pentecost

Before the service, silence is kept.

¶ The Service of Light

In the darkness this prophecy may be read

Isaiah 43.1-3a,6b,7

or this responsory may be used

Fear not, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name; you are mine.

All **Fear not, for I have redeemed you.**

I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned.

All **I have called you by name; you are mine.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

All **Fear not, for I have redeemed you.**

I have called you by name; you are mine.

from Isaiah 43

Blessing of the Light

During the chant Veni, Sancte Spiritus or some other (which is unaccompanied), these verses are read and a large candle is lit

Genesis 1.1-3

Deacon Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
All **who is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.**

Deacon Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
Raised to your right hand on high
the ascended Christ shows the prints of love
and bestows on us the gifts of grace.
As your Spirit renews the face of the earth,
may we bring forth the fruits of the Spirit
and reveal your glory in all the world.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The lights are lit, and the bishop's procession enters as a hymn is sung.

The Greeting

Bishop Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All **Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

There is one body and one spirit.
All **There is one hope to which we were called;**
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
All **one God and Father of all.**

Peace be with you
All **and also with you.**

The bishop welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.

Presentation of the Candidates

The sponsors present the candidates for baptism and confirmation, saying

I present N to be (baptized and) confirmed.

The bishop asks those who are candidates for baptism

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

The bishop asks those who are candidates for confirmation

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

I have.

The bishop asks all the candidates

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart
to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

I am.

The bishop addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome *these* candidates
and uphold *them* in *their* life in Christ?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

The Collect

Bishop Let us pray.

A short period of silence is kept.

Bishop God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Decision

Short Reading

Acts 2.38,39

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Decision

The bishop addresses all the candidates

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.
Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Signing with the Cross

The bishop or another minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for baptism, saying

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

The bishop may invite their sponsors to sign the candidates with the sign of the cross. When all the candidates for baptism have been signed, the bishop says to them

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

All **Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All **Amen.**

Baptism

The bishop leads the candidates to the font, as a hymn is sung.

New Testament Reading

Romans 8.1-11 or Galatians 5.22 – 6.2

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer over the Water

The bishop stands before the water of baptism and says

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

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,
bring them to new birth in the household of faith,
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.**

Profession of Faith

The bishop addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with *these candidates* the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Baptism

The bishop addresses each candidate for baptism by name, saying
N, is this your faith?

and candidates answer in their own words, or
This is my faith.

The bishop or another minister pours water on each candidate three times, saying

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

All **Amen.**

When all have been baptized, the bishop says

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All **Amen.**

The candidates for confirmation who have previously been baptized may come forward to the font and sign themselves with water, or the bishop may sprinkle them, after which the bishop invites the congregation to join him in praying

All **Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized into 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.**

During the singing of a hymn, the bishop leads the candidates to the place of Confirmation.

Gospel Reading

The congregation remains standing.

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia.
Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

All **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The deacon reads the Gospel

John 7.37-39 or John 14.5-18

At the end the deacon says

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Confirmation

The bishop stands before those who are 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.**

The bishop extends his hands towards those to be confirmed and says

Almighty and ever-living God,
you have given these 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.**

The bishop addresses each candidate by name

N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

He then lays his hand on the head of each, saying

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The bishop invites the congregation to pray for all those on whom hands have been laid

All **Defend, O Lord, these 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 Peace

Bishop God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us
and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

¶ The Prayers and Sending Out

Prayers of Intercession

The bishop says to the newly baptized and confirmed

You now share, with all the members of the Church, the privilege of praying to our Father, through his Son Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

As a royal priesthood, let us pray to the Father through Christ who ever lives to intercede for us.

Intercessor Reveal your kingdom among the nations;
as we pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world,
may peace abound and justice flourish.

A period of silence is kept.

Your name be hallowed.
All **Your kingdom come.**

Send down upon us the gift of your Holy Spirit
and renew your Church with power from on high.

A period of silence is kept.

Your name be hallowed.
All **Your kingdom come.**

Deliver the oppressed, strengthen the weak,
heal and restore your creation.

A period of silence is kept.

Your name be hallowed.
All **Your kingdom come.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Church on earth,
we join our prayers with all the saints in glory.

A period of silence is kept.

Your name be hallowed.
All **Your kingdom come.**

The bishop concludes the intercessions with this collect

God of mercy,
by whose grace alone we are accepted
and equipped for your service:
stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Raised again with Christ, in the power of the Spirit, we pray

All **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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

(or)

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.**

The Blessing

Bishop God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you by his life-giving Spirit to walk with him in the paths of righteousness and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Giving of a Lighted Candle

A hymn is sung, during which ministers give a lighted candle to each of those who have been baptized and confirmed.

When all have received a candle, the bishop says

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 Dismissal

Deacon Go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The bishop leads the newly baptized and confirmed through the church.

The headings (Epiphany/Baptism of Christ/Trinity, Easter/Pentecost and All Saints) indicate the seasonal emphases of the material. However, these texts may be used on any occasion to meet pastoral circumstances.

Epiphany/Baptism of Christ/Trinity

Introduction

At our Lord's baptism in the river Jordan
 God showed himself to all who have eyes to see and ears to hear.
 The Father spoke from heaven, the Spirit descended as a dove
 and Jesus was anointed with power from on high.
 Here is the door of faith,
 through which we enter the kingdom of heaven.
 As children of God, we are adopted as his sons and daughters,
 and called out to proclaim the wonders of him
 who called us out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

Acclamation at the Blessing of Light

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,
 our light and our salvation,
 to you be glory and praise for ever.
 You gave your Christ as a light to the nations,
 and through the anointing of the Holy Spirit
 you established us as a royal priesthood.
 As you call us into your marvellous light,
 may our lives bear witness to your truth
 and our lips never cease to proclaim your praise.
 Blessed be Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Lord of all time and eternity,
 you opened heaven's gate and revealed yourself as Father
 by the voice that called Jesus your beloved Son,
 baptizing him, in the power of the Spirit:
 reveal yourself to us now, to claim us as your children,
 and so complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
 in the waters of the new creation;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Bible Readings and Psalms

Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Baptism			
Exodus 33.12-20 or Isaiah 9.2, 3, 6, 7	Psalm 67	2 Corinthians 3.12 – 4.6	John 1.14-18
Isaiah 42.5-8	Psalm 146.4-9	Acts 9.1-20 or 10-20	Luke 3.15-17, 21, 22
Isaiah 63.15, 16; 64.1-4	Psalm 50.1-6	1 Corinthians 10.1-4	Mark 1.1-11

Confirmation

Isaiah 63.7-10, 17; 64.1-4	Psalm 27.1-10	1 Corinthians 2.7-12	Mark 1.4-11 (or 1-13)
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Confirmation when Affirmation and Reception take place (for which these readings are particularly suitable)

Exodus 33.12-20	Psalm 36.5-9	2 Corinthians 3.12 – 4.6	John 1.14-18
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Short Readings for Baptism and Confirmation within a Vigil Service

2 Corinthians 5.17 or Colossians 1.11-14

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
 This is my Son, the Beloved,
 with whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3.17

All **Alleluia.**

Prayer over the Water

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

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

Father, we give you thanks and praise
for your gift of water in creation;
for your Spirit, sweeping over the waters,
bringing light and life;
for your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
baptized in the river Jordan.

We bless you for your new creation,
brought to birth by water and the Spirit,
and for your grace bestowed upon us your children,
washing away our sins.

May your holy and life-giving Spirit
move upon these waters.
Restore through them the beauty of your creation,
and bring those who are baptized
to new birth in the family of your Church.

Drown sin in the waters of judgement,
anoint your children with power from on high,
and make them one with Christ
in the freedom of your kingdom.
For all might, majesty, dominion and power are yours,
now and for ever.

All **Alleluia. Amen.**

Responsive Form

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

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

Father, for your gift of water in creation,
All **we give you thanks and praise.**

For your Spirit, sweeping over the waters,
bringing light and life,
All **we give you thanks and praise.**

For your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
baptized in the river Jordan,
All **we give you thanks and praise.**

For your new creation,
brought to birth by water and the Spirit,
All **we give you thanks and praise.**

For your grace bestowed upon us your children,
washing away our sins,
All **we give you thanks and praise.**

Father, accept our sacrifice of praise;
may your holy and life-giving Spirit
move upon these waters.
All **Lord, receive our prayer.**

Restore through them the beauty of your creation,
and bring those who are baptized
to new birth in the family of your Church.
All **Lord, receive our prayer.**

Drown sin in the waters of judgement,
anoint your children with power from on high,
and make them one with Christ
in the freedom of your kingdom.
All **Lord, receive our prayer.**

For all might, majesty, dominion and power are yours,
now and for ever.
All **Alleluia. Amen.**

Introduction to the Prayers of Intercession (Confirmation)

The bishop says to the newly baptized and confirmed

You now share, with all the members of the Church, the privilege of praying to our Father, through his Son Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

So, let us pray for the whole world,
which is being renewed by the Word made flesh,
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayers of Intercession

God of glory,
whose radiance shines from the face of Christ,
give your children such assurance of your mercy
and such knowledge of your grace,
that, believing all you promise,
and receiving all you give,
they may be transformed ever more closely
by your Spirit into the image of Jesus, your Son.

Father of life,

All make known your glory.

God of light,
whose life shines beyond all things,
give us and all your Church
the will to follow Christ
and to bear his peace,
that the light of Christ
may bring confidence to the world,
and faithfulness to all who look to you in hope.

Father of life,

All make known your glory.

God of power,
whose word gives life to heaven and earth,
pour your abundant gifts on all your creation,
that the blind may see, the fallen may be raised,
and your people find tongues to confess
your promises of a broken world made new.

Father of life,

All make known your glory.

When Baptism and/or Confirmation are celebrated without Holy Communion, the Post Communion may be used to conclude the Prayers of Intercession.

Introduction to the Peace

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.
The old has passed away; the new has come.

Eucharistic Prefaces

Short Preface (contemporary language)

And now we give you thanks
because by water and the Holy Spirit
you have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord,
you raise us to new life in him
and renew in us the image of your glory.

Short Preface (traditional language)

And now we give thee thanks
because by water and the Holy Spirit
thou hast made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord,
thou dost raise us to new life in him
and renew in us the image of thy glory.

Post Communion

God of glory,
you inspire us with the breath of life
which brought to birth a new world in Christ.
May we who are reborn in him
be transformed by the renewal of our lives,
that the light of your new creation
may flood the world with your abundant grace;
through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Blessing

God, who in his Christ gives us a spring of water
welling up to eternal life,
perfect in you the image of his glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Easter/Pentecost

Introduction

God raised Jesus Christ from the dead
and sent the Holy Spirit to recall the whole world to himself.
In baptism we die to sin and rise to newness of life in Christ.
Here we find rebirth in the Spirit,
and set our minds on his heavenly gifts.
As children of God, we are continually created anew,
as we walk the path of faith,
and feed on the forgiveness of his healing grace.

Acclamation at the Blessing of Light (Easter)

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the deep waters of death
you brought your people to new birth
by raising your Son to life in triumph.
Through him dark death has been destroyed
and radiant life is everywhere restored.
As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light
may our lives reflect his glory
and our lips repeat the endless song.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

(For Pentecost, see page 136.)

Collect

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
from whose wounded side flowed life for the world:
raise your people from sin and death
and build them as living stones
into the spiritual temple of your Church;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end.

All **Amen.**

Bible Readings and Psalms

Old Testament	Psalms	New Testament	Gospel
Baptism			
Ezekiel 37.1-14	Psalms 118.19-24	Romans 6.3-11	Matthew 28.16-20
Ezekiel 36.24-28	Psalms 51.7-14	Titus 3.3-7	John 20.19-23
Ezekiel 47.1-12	Psalms 46.1-7	Revelation 22.1-5	John 7.37-39

Confirmation

Ezekiel 37.1-14	Psalms 118.19-24 or A Song of Deliverance (page 170)	Romans 8.1-11 (or 4-11)	John 20.19-23
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Confirmation when Affirmation and Reception take place (for which these readings are particularly suitable)

Jeremiah 31.31-34	Psalms 119.105-112 or 104.29-32	Galatians 5.22 – 6.2 or Acts 2.1-18	John 14.15-18 John 4.23-26
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Short Readings for Baptism and Confirmation within a Vigil Service

Acts 2.38, 39 or 1 Peter 2.4, 5

Gospel Acclamation (Easter)

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All **Alleluia.**

cf Revelation 1.17, 18

Prayer over the Water

The bracketed refrain **Saving God, give us life** is optional.
If it is used, it may be said or sung by all.

The first phrase **Saving God** (italicized) may be said or sung
by a deacon or other minister.

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

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

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.

**All [Saving God,
give us life.]**

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery
to freedom in the Promised Land.

**All [Saving God,
give us life.]**

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

**All [Saving God,
give us life.]**

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.

**All [Saving God,
give us life.]**

Send your Holy Spirit upon them,
bring them to new birth in the household of faith
and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

**All [Saving God,
give us life.]**

Introduction to the Prayers of Intercession (Confirmation – Easter)

The bishop says to the newly baptized and confirmed

You now share, with all the members of the Church, the privilege
of praying to our Father, through his Son Jesus Christ, in the
power of the Holy Spirit.

So, let us pray for the whole world,
which is being renewed by the Risen Christ.

(For Pentecost, see page 146.)

Prayers of Intercession

Father, we thank you that by baptism
you have raised these your children with Christ
to new life in the Spirit.

Guide and protect them with your grace,
that they may follow you all their days
and grow in knowledge and love of you.

Father, by the victory of your Son,
All give light to the world.

May Christ who conquered sin and death
keep his whole Church faithful to his gospel.
Help us always to hold fast to truth
and to walk in the way of life.

Father, by the victory of your Son,
All give light to the world.

May the Holy Spirit fill the hearts and minds of all nations
to unite the world in peace and love.

By your healing power restore all that is broken
and unite us with you, our God and Father.

Father, by the victory of your Son,
All give light to the world.

*When Baptism and/or Confirmation are celebrated without Holy
Communion, the Post Communion may be used to conclude the
Prayers of Intercession.*

Introduction to the Peace (Easter)

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

(For Pentecost, see page 146.)

Eucharistic Prefaces

Short Preface (contemporary language)

And now we give you thanks
because by water and the Holy Spirit
you have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord,
you raise us to new life in him
and renew in us the image of your glory.

Short Preface (traditional language)

And now we give thee thanks
because by water and the Holy Spirit
thou hast made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord,
thou dost raise us to new life in him
and renew in us the image of thy glory.

Post Communion

Author of life divine,
in the resurrection of your Son, you set before us
the mystery of his triumph over sin and death;
may all who are washed in the waters of rebirth
rise to newness of life
and find the promised presence of your abundant grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Blessing

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you by his life-giving Spirit
to walk with him in the paths of righteousness and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

From All Saints' Day until Advent

Introduction

In baptism, God calls us to be his friends
and to make us holy in his Son Jesus Christ.
On this journey of faith we have no abiding city,
for we have the promise of the heavenly Jerusalem,
where the whole creation is brought to a new birth
in the Holy Spirit.

Here we are united in the company of all the faithful,
and we look for the coming of the eternal kingdom.
As children of God, we look through this passing age
for the signs of the dawn of everlasting glory.

Acclamation at the Blessing of Light

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,
our light and our salvation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
You gave your Christ as a light to the nations,
and through the anointing of the Holy Spirit
you established us as a royal priesthood.
As you call us into your marvellous light,
may our lives bear witness to your truth
and our lips never cease to proclaim your praise.
Blessed be Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Collect

Almighty Father,
you have made us heirs through hope of your everlasting kingdom,
and in the waters of baptism you have promised
a measure of grace overflowing to all eternity.
Take our sins and guilt away,
and so inflame us with the life of your Spirit
that we may know your favour and goodness towards us,
and walk in newness of life, both now and for ever;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Bible Readings and Psalms

Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
Baptism			
Exodus 19.3-8	Psalm 98.1-4	Revelation 5.6-10	Matthew 28.16-20
Isaiah 44.1-5	Psalm 63.1-7	Hebrews 11.32 – 12.2	Matthew 5.1-12 or 16
Hosea 14.4-8	Psalm 92.10-15	1 Peter 2.4-10	John 15.1-11

Confirmation

Isaiah 11.1-10	Psalm 20.6-9	Revelation 5.6-10	Matthew 28.16-20
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Confirmation when Affirmation and Reception take place (for which these readings are particularly suitable)

Exodus 19.3-8	Psalm 96.1-10	1 Peter 2.4-10	Mark 1.14-20
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Short Readings for

Baptism and Confirmation within a Vigil Service

Romans 13.11, 12 or Romans 5.1, 2

Gospel Acclamation (All Saints' Day)

Alleluia, alleluia.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God's own people,
called out of darkness into his marvellous light.

1 Peter 2.9

All Alleluia.

Prayer over the Water

*The bracketed refrain **Hope of the saints, make known your glory** is optional. If it is used, it may be said or sung by all.*

*The first phrase **Hope of the saints** (italicized) may be said or sung by a deacon or other minister.*

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

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

Lord of the heavens,
we bless your name for all your servants
who have been a sign of your grace through the ages.

All [**Hope of the saints,**
make known your glory.]

You delivered Noah from the waters of destruction;
you divided the waters of the sea,
and by the hand of Moses
you led your people from slavery
into the Promised Land.

All [**Hope of the saints,**
make known your glory.]

You made a new covenant in the blood of your Son,
that all who confess his name
may, by the Holy Spirit,
enter the covenant of grace,
receive a pledge of the kingdom of heaven,
and share in the divine nature.

All [**Hope of the saints,**
make known your glory.]

Fill these waters, we pray, with the power of that same Spirit,
that all who enter them may be reborn
and rise from the grave
to new life in Christ.

All [**Hope of the saints,**
make known your glory.]

As the apostles and prophets, the confessors and martyrs,
faithfully served you in their generation,
may we be built into an eternal dwelling for you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

All [**Hope of the saints,**
make known your glory.]

Introduction to the Prayers of Intercession (Confirmation)

The bishop says to the newly baptized and confirmed

You now share, with all the members of the Church, the privilege of praying to our Father, through his Son Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

So, let us pray for the whole world,
which is being renewed by Christ,
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Prayers of Intercession

Heavenly Father,
receive into the arms of your mercy
all who have been baptized
and make them your own for ever;
that, having tasted of your goodness,
they may ever hunger for your continuing presence
in their walk of faith.

Your kingdom come.

All Your will be done.

Stir up within your Church the zeal that inspires
your saints in every generation.
Give us a due sense of your grace,
and the strength to do your will.
You measure us by our needs;
may we never measure you by our impatience.

Your kingdom come.

All Your will be done.

Surrounded by so great a company of witnesses,
may we honour your blessings
in all the ages that have gone before,
and live in joyful expectation
of your promises in the ages yet to come.

Your kingdom come.

All Your will be done.

*When Baptism and/or Confirmation are celebrated without
Holy Communion, the Post Communion may be used to conclude
the Prayers of Intercession.*

Introduction to the Peace

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy,
that you may be kept safe and blameless in spirit, soul, and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(or)

We are fellow-citizens with the saints
and of the household of God
through Christ our Lord,
who came and preached peace to those who were far off
and those who were near.

Eucharistic Prefaces

Short Preface (contemporary language)

And now we give you thanks
because by water and the Holy Spirit
you have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord,
you raise us to new life in him
and renew in us the image of your glory.

Short Preface (traditional language)

And now we give thee thanks
because by water and the Holy Spirit
thou hast made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord,
thou dost raise us to new life in him
and renew in us the image of thy glory.

Post Communion

Lord, in the vision of your heavenly kingdom
you reveal among us the promise of your glory;
may that glory be ours
as we claim our citizenship in the kingdom
where you are alive and reign, one God, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Blessing

May God, who kindled the fire of his love in the hearts of the saints,
give you joy in their fellowship,
and strengthen you to follow them in the way of holiness;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Supplementary Texts

¶ Thanksgiving Prayer for a Child

This prayer may be used where it is appropriate to express thanksgiving for a child to be baptized later in the service; it may be inserted after the Greeting, as part of the Preparation. This is not intended to preclude the use of a separate service of Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child.

We rejoice today with the *family* of *N* and *N*
as they thank God for the gift of life
and bring their *children* for baptism.

God our Creator,
we thank you for the wonder of new life
and for the mystery of human love.

We give thanks for all whose support and skill
surround and sustain the beginning of life.

As Jesus knew love and discipline within a human family,
may *these children* grow in strength and wisdom.

As Mary knew the joys and pains of motherhood,
give *these parents* your sustaining grace and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

¶ Bible Readings and Psalms

Seasonal alternatives are provided on pages 150–165.

Old Testament	Psalms	New Testament	Gospel
Baptism			
Isaiah 43.1-7	Psalms 66.4-11	Romans 5.6-11	Mark 1.11 (9-11)
Genesis 17.1-8 or 22.15-18	Psalms 89.21, 22, 25-29	Galatians 3.27 – 4.7	John 15.1-11
2 Kings 5.1-15a	Psalms 51.1-7	Titus 3.3-7	John 3.1-8
Genesis 7.1, 7-16	Psalms 46.1-7	1 Peter 3.18-22	Matthew 28.16-20
Confirmation			
Ezekiel 36.24-28 or 47.1-10, 12	Psalms 51.7-14 or 84.1-6	Titus 3.3-7 or 1 Corinthians 12.4-13	John 3.1-8 or 7.37-39
Confirmation when Affirmation and Reception take place (for which these readings are particularly suitable)			
Isaiah 44.1-5 or 62.1-7	Psalms 18.31-38 or 107.1-9	Ephesians 6.10-20 or Acts 10.34-43	Luke 24.44-49 or 4.14-19

¶ An Alternative Form of the Decision

Where there are strong pastoral reasons, the following may be used in place of the Decision in the service of Holy Baptism and at other Initiation services.

The president addresses the candidates directly, or through their parents, godparents and sponsors

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

¶ Canticles in Procession to the Font

A Song of Trust in God

Refrain:

All **My soul longs for you, O God.**

- 1 As the deer longs for the water brooks, ♦
so longs my soul for you, O God.
- 2 My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God; ♦
when shall I come before the presence of God?
- 3 My tears have been my bread day and night, ♦
while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'
- 4 Now when I think on these things, I pour out my soul: ♦
how I went with the multitude
and led the procession to the house of God.
- 5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, ♦
among those who kept holy day.
- 6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, ♦
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 7 O put your trust in God; ♦
for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 42.1-7

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

All **My soul longs for you, O God.**

A Song of Deliverance

Refrain:

**All All the earth, shout and sing for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One.**

- 1 'Behold, God is my salvation; ♦
I will trust and not be afraid;
- 2 'For the Lord God is my strength and my song, ♦
and has become my salvation.'
- 3 With joy you will draw water ♦
from the wells of salvation.
- 4 On that day you will say, ♦
'Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;
- 5 'Make known his deeds among the nations, ♦
proclaim that his name is exalted.
- 6 'Sing God's praises, who has triumphed gloriously; ♦
let this be known in all the world.
- 7 'Shout and sing for joy, you that dwell in Zion, ♦
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.'

Isaiah 12.2-6

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All All the earth, shout and sing for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One.**

A Song of the New Creation

Refrain:

**All I will make a way in the wilderness,
and rivers in the desert.**

- 1 'I am the Lord, your Holy One, ♦
the Creator of Israel, your King.'
- 2 Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, ♦
a path in the mighty waters,
- 3 'Remember not the former things, ♦
nor consider the things of old.
- 4 'Behold, I am doing a new thing; ♦
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
- 5 'I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert, ♦
to give drink to my chosen people,
- 6 'The people whom I formed for myself, ♦
that they might declare my praise.'

Isaiah 43.15,16,18,19,20c,21

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All I will make a way in the wilderness,
and rivers in the desert.**

¶ *A Litany of the Resurrection*

which may be used in Procession to the Baptismal Font

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious:
All and his mercy endures for ever.

He has loved us from all eternity:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

And remembered us when we were in trouble:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

He became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

By his cross and passion he has redeemed the world:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

And has washed us from our sins in his own blood:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

On the third day he rose again:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

And has given us the victory:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

He ascended into heaven:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

And opened wide for us the everlasting doors:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

He is seated at the right hand of the Father:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

And ever lives to make intercession for us:
All for his mercy endures for ever.

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever.
Amen.**

For the gift of his Spirit:
All blessed be Christ.

For the catholic Church:
All blessed be Christ.

For the means of grace:
All blessed be Christ.

For the hope of glory:
All blessed be Christ.

For the triumphs of his gospel:
All blessed be Christ.

For the lives of his saints:
All blessed be Christ.

In joy and in sorrow:
All blessed be Christ.

In life and in death:
All blessed be Christ.

Now and to the end of the ages:
All blessed be Christ.

*This litany may be used in two parts, reserving the clauses following
the Gloria for a return procession from the place of baptism.*

¶ *Thanksgiving for the Holy Ones of God*

which may be used in Procession to the Baptismal Font

The following responses may be said or sung

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

(or)

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For Abraham and Sarah, our ancestors in faith,
and all who journey into the unknown trusting God's promises:

For Jacob, deceitful younger brother, yet chosen by God,
the father of all who are called by virtue not of their own:

For Moses the lawgiver and Aaron the priest,
and all who lead God's people to freedom and newness of life: *R*

For Esther and Deborah, saviours of their nation,
and for all who dare to act courageously at God's call:

For Hannah and Ruth, and all who through love and devotion
witness to the faithfulness of God:

For Isaiah, John the Baptist and all the prophets,
and all who speak the truth without counting the cost: *R*

For Mary the Virgin, the mother of our Lord and God,
and all who obey God's call without question:

For Andrew and John and the first disciples,
and for all who forsake everything to follow Jesus:

For Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary,
first witnesses of the resurrection,
and for all who bear witness to Christ: *R*

For Peter and Paul [, N] and the apostles,
who preached the gospel to Jew and Gentile,
and for all who take the good news to the ends of the earth:

For Barnabas, Silas and Timothy,
and for all who bring encouragement and steadfastness:

*In the following sections names may be added or omitted
to reflect local traditions.*

For the writers of the Gospels
and for all who bring the faith of Christ alive for each generation: *R*

For Ambrose, Augustine, Gregory and Jerome,
and for all who contend for the truth of the gospel:

For Basil, Gregory of Nazianzus, Athanasius and John Chrysostom,
and all who enable us to reflect on the mystery of Christ:

For Cyprian, Antony and Ephrem,
and for all who lead the Church into new paths of discipleship: *R*

For Stephen, Alban, Agnes, Lucy and the whole army of martyrs,
and all who have faced death for love of Christ:

For Augustine of Canterbury and Aidan, for Boniface and Patrick,
and for all who have carried the gospel to this and other lands:

For Aelred, Bernard and Cuthbert,
and for all who live and teach the love of God: *R*

For Anselm and Richard Hooker,
and for all who reveal to us the depths of God's wisdom:

For Benedict and Francis, Hilda and Bede,
and for all who deepen our common life in Christ:

For Julian of Norwich, Bridget of Sweden and Teresa of Avila,
and for all who renew our vision of the mystery of God: *R*

For Thomas Cranmer
and all who reform the Church of God:

For Thomas More
and all who hold firm to its continuing faith:

For Gregory and Dunstan, George Herbert and John Keble,
and for all who praise God in poetry and song: *R*

For Lancelot Andrewes, John Wesley and Charles Simeon,
and for all who preach the word of God:

For William Wilberforce and Josephine Butler,
and for all who work to transform the world:

For Monica, and for Mary Sumner,
and for all who nurture faith in home and family: *R*

For the martyrs and peacemakers of our own time,
who shine as lights in the darkness:

For all the unsung heroes and heroines of our faith,
whose names are known to God alone:

For all those in our own lives
who have revealed to us the love of God
and shown to us the way of holiness: *R*

For *NN...* *R*

All Let us rejoice and praise them with thankful hearts
and glorify our God in whom they put their trust.

¶ Responsive Form of the Prayer over the Water

Seasonal alternatives are provided on pages 150–165.

*The refrain **Lord of life, renew your creation** may be said or sung by all.*

*The first phrase **Lord of life** (italicized) may be said or sung by a deacon or other minister.*

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

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

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.
Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.
Through water you led the children of Israel
from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.
In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,
to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

All **Lord of life,
renew your creation.**

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.
In it we are buried with Christ in his death.
By it we share in his resurrection.
Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.
Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,
we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.
Lord of life,

All **renew your creation.**

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
they may be cleansed from sin and born again.
Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith
and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

All **Lord of life,
renew your creation.**

¶ An Alternative Profession of Faith

Where there are strong pastoral reasons, the following may be used in place of the Profession of Faith in the service of Holy Baptism.

The president says

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.**

This is the faith of the Church.

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

¶ Alternative Prayers of Intercession

Seasonal alternatives are provided on pages 150–165.

The prayers may be led by the president or another minister.

We thank you that you have claimed for yourself
those who have been washed in the waters of rebirth.
Uphold them in this new life,
that they may ever remain steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope, and rooted in your love.

Father of life,

All **make known your glory.**

Pour your blessing on all your people.
May our hearts ever praise you,
and find their perfect rest in you.
Grant us the freedom of your service
and peace in doing your will.

Father of life,

All **make known your glory.**

The whole creation is filled with the light of your grace.
Dispel the darkness of our hearts, and forgive our sins
and negligences,
that we may come at last to the light of your glory.

Father of life,

All **make known your glory.**

*If Holy Communion does not follow, the prayers end with
the Lord's Prayer.*

As your children, born again in Christ, we say

All **Our Father ...**

¶ Short Eucharistic Preface *(traditional language)*

And now we give thee thanks
because by water and the Holy Spirit
thou hast made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord,
thou dost raise us to new life in him
and renew in us the image of thy glory.