

# ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## HOLY BAPTISM ORDER OF SERVICE

## Evangelical Lutheran Worship Baptism Order of Service

### INTRODUCTION: HOLY BAPTISM

In holy baptism the triune God delivers us from the forces of evil, puts our sinful self to death, gives us new birth, adopts us as children, and makes us members of the body of Christ, the church.

The Christian community at worship celebrates God's gift of baptism in a number of ways. The sacrament itself normally takes place in the midst of the worshipping assembly as a sign that in baptism we are made one with Christ and with the whole people of God. On behalf of the whole church, we promise support to new sisters and brothers, confess the faith with them, and welcome them into the body of Christ. Water connected to the Word—God's saving promise in Jesus Christ—is at the center of the baptismal celebration.

Although a person is baptized once, the gift of baptism continues throughout a Christian's life. Instruction in the faith for a life of discipleship is part of the preparation of those who are to be baptized or their parents and sponsors. The ongoing nurture of that faith is part of the congregation's ministries of formation, education, service, and evangelical witness.



## **BAPTISM:**

*God brings those who are baptized out of death and into life.*

**Presentation:** *The Holy Spirit calls and invites us to receive God's grace. Sponsors present those to be baptized, and we promise our support.*

**Profession of Faith:** *Only by God's grace can we renounce the forces of evil and the power of sin. With the whole church, we confess our faith in the triune God.*

**Thanksgiving at the Font, Baptism:** *With thanksgiving, God's saving deeds are remembered. Dying with Christ in baptism, the child of God is raised to new life through water and the Word.*

**Prayer for the Holy Spirit, Sign of the Cross:** *Additional signs proclaim the meaning of baptism. We pray that the gift of the Holy Spirit sustain the baptized. The baptized are marked with the cross of Christ forever.*

**Welcome:** *The baptized are called to follow Jesus, the light of the world. We welcome new companions in the mission of God.*

## **PRESENTATION**

*Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font. The assembly is seated.*

*The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words:*

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

*Sponsors for each candidate, in turn, present the candidates:*

I present name for baptism.

*The presiding minister addresses candidates who are able to answer for themselves:*

Name, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

*Each candidate responds:*

I do.

*The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves:*

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *your children* baptized into Christ?

*Response:*

I do.

*The presiding minister continues:*

As you bring *your children* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *them* among God's faithful people,  
bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed,  
and the Ten Commandments,  
place in *their* hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture *them* in faith and prayer,  
so that *your children* may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *your children* grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Response:*

I do.

*The presiding minister addresses sponsors:*

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *these persons* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Response:*

I do.

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

People of God, do you promise to support name/s and pray for *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

**We do.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*Response:*

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*Response:*

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:*

I renounce them.

*The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

*\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

*Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving.*

*At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling

forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## **BAPTISM**

*The presiding minister baptizes each candidate. The candidate is immersed into the water, or water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:*

*Name, I baptize you in the name of the Father,\**

*\*Or, "Name is baptized in the name of the Father,"...*

*The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:*

and of the Son,

*The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:*

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*After each baptism, the assembly may respond with the following, a sung alleluia, or another acclamation (#209-213).*

**You belong to Christ,  
in whom you have been baptized.  
Alleluia.**

*Clothed with Christ in baptism, the newly baptized may receive a  
baptismal garment.*

*The presiding minister continues:*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit  
you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin,  
and raise them to eternal life.

*Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the  
minister prays for each:*

Sustain name with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of  
wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit  
of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your  
presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of  
each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As  
the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:*

Name, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and  
marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

## WELCOME

*A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (to a  
sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation  
says:*

Let your light so shine before others  
that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven.

*The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A  
representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the  
welcome.*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we  
share:  
join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's  
creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*A song is sung – “Up From the Waters” or other appropriate song.*

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you Always

**C: And also with you**

*The peace is shared*

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