

A SERVICE FOR

INFANT BAPTISM



The parents bring their child / children, with the sponsors, to the minister at the font

MINISTER

In this service we have come to give thanks to God with [*parents names*] for the gift of [*child's name*], to ask God's blessing on him/her and to dedicate ourselves to the responsible task of Christian nurture.

As Jesus himself welcomes the children, we welcome [*child's name*] into the Church family. We acknowledge the claim our children have on the support and prayers of the Church.

We believe it is the duty of Christian parents and the Church to work together so that our children may come to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

BIBLE READINGS

[Deut. 6:4-7] Hear Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and might. And these words which I command you today, shall be upon your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children.

[Mark 10] They brought children for Jesus to touch. The disciples rebuked them, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the children come to me; do not try to stop them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you, whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.' Then Jesus put his arms around the children, laid his hands on them and blessed them.

[Matthew 28] Jesus said, 'I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples; baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.'

THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH

**We believe in God the Father,
Who made the world.
We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son
Who redeemed humankind.
We believe in the Holy Spirit
Who gives life to the people of God.**

For [child's name] Jesus was born, lived and taught God's love, suffered and died, and in his resurrection and ascension triumphed over death and all evil, before he/she could know anything of it. This baptism is therefore a sign of God's gracious, unconditional love for us all

THE PARENTS' PROMISES

MINISTER

[Parents' names], you have brought [child's name] to be baptised. Do you promise to give honour to God by always loving and respecting one another?

Response

WITH GOD'S HELP WE WILL

Do you promise to be faithful and loving parents to [child's name], caring for him/her as God's gift to you ?

Response

WITH GOD'S HELP WE WILL

Do you promise to bring up [child's name] in the Christian faith and to build your family life on the foundation of love and truth which Jesus Christ has given us ?

Response

WITH GOD'S HELP WE WILL

THE SPONSORS' PROMISE

You have come here today to support [parent's names] as they make their promises. Will you continue to help them in the Christian nurture of their children ?

Response

WITH GOD'S HELP WE WILL

May the Lord bless you all, and give you his grace to keep you faithful to these promises you have made today in his presence.

THE CHURCH'S PROMISE

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ, I commend [child's name] to you for your prayer and concern. Will you endeavour to maintain a fellowship of faith in which children can be nurtured in the Christian way and be guided to a personal faith in Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord?

Response

WITH GOD'S HELP WE WILL

THE BAPTISM

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace

MINISTER

By this act of Christian baptism we receive [child's name] into the Church family, where he/she may learn to follow Jesus Christ and come to know him personally as God and Saviour.

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

PRAYERS

God our Father, you created all life. You give eternal life to all who repent of their sins and trust in you through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. We thank you for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus by which we have salvation, and for the gift of your Holy Spirit, through whom we have eternal life.

God, the Father of us all, we thank you for the gift of [child's name]. We thank you for the love which prepared for his/her coming and welcomed him/her into the world. We thank you for the hopes for [child's name] future, which [parents' names] treasure. Be with them in their home and their life together as a family.

Keep them faithful to their promises. Guide them in the Christian upbringing of their child and in their own understanding of the Faith. Help us , your Church, to give them the support of our love and our prayers.

We commend [child's name] to your Fatherly care. Give him/her health of body, mind and spirit. Bring him/her, in due time, to make his/her own choice to follow Jesus Christ, so that she may serve you faithfully and share the joy of your eternal kingdom.

In the name of Jesus

AMEN

THE GRACE

