

The Order for the  
Ministration of Baptism

According to the 1892  
*Book of Common Prayer*



# The Ministration of Baptism to Such as are of Riper Years, and Able to Answer for Themselves

¶ *When any such Persons as are of riper years are to be baptized, timely notice shall be given to the Minister; that so due care may be taken for their examination, whether they be sufficiently instructed in the Principles of the Christian Religion; and that they may be exhorted to prepare themselves, with Prayers and Fasting, for the receiving of this holy Sacrament.*

¶ *And if they shall be found fit, then the Godfathers and Godmothers (the People being assembled upon the Sunday, Holy-day, or Prayer-day appointed) shall be ready to present them at the Font, immediately after the second Lesson, either at Morning or Evening Prayer, as the Minister, in his discretion, shall think fit. And standing there, the Minister shall say,*

HATH this Person been already baptized, or  
no?

¶ *If they answer, No: then shall the Minister (the People all standing until the Lord's Prayer) proceed as followeth.*

DEARLY beloved, forasmuch as all men are conceived and born in sin, (and that which is born of the flesh is flesh,) and they

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who are in the flesh cannot please God, but live in sin, committing many actual transgressions; and our Saviour Christ saith, None can enter into the kingdom of God, except he be regenerate and born anew of water and of the Holy Ghost; I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteous goodness he will grant to *these Persons* that which by nature *they* cannot have; that *they* may be baptized with Water and the Holy Ghost, and received into Christ's holy Church, and be made lively members of the same.

¶ *Then shall the Minister say,*

Let us pray.

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, who of thy great mercy didst save Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water; and also didst safely lead the children of Israel thy people through the Red Sea, figuring thereby thy holy Baptism; and by the Baptism of thy well-beloved Son Jesus Christ, in the river Jordan, didst sanctify the element of Water to the mystical washing

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away of sin; We beseech thee, for thine infinite mercies, that thou wilt mercifully look upon *these thy Servants*; wash *them* and sanctify *them* with the Holy Ghost; that *they*, being delivered from thy wrath, may be received into the ark of Christ's Church; and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, that finally *they* may come to the land of everlasting life, there to reign with thee, world without end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Or this.*

**A**LMIGHTY and immortal God, the aid of all who need, the helper of all who flee to thee for succour, the life of those who believe, and the resurrection of the dead; We call upon thee for *these thy Servants*, that *they*, coming to thy holy Baptism, may receive remission of *their* sins, by spiritual regeneration. Receive *them*, O Lord, as thou hast promised by thy well-beloved Son, saying, Ask, and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. So give now unto us who ask; let us

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who seek, find; open the gate unto us who knock; that *these thy Servants* may enjoy the everlasting benediction of thy heavenly washing, and may come to the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ *Then the Minister shall say,*

Hear the words of the Gospel, written by Saint *John*, in the third Chapter, beginning at the first Verse.

**T**HERE was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: the same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born

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of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

¶ *After which he shall say this Exhortation following.*

**B**ELOVED, ye hear in this Gospel the express words of our Saviour Christ, that except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Whereby ye may perceive the great necessity of this Sacrament, where it may be had. Likewise, immediately before his ascension into heaven, (as we read in the last Chapter of Saint Mark's Gospel,) he gave command to his disciples, saying, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. Which also showeth unto us the great benefit we reap thereby.

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For which cause Saint Peter the Apostle, when upon his first preaching of the Gospel many were pricked at the heart, and said to him and the rest of the Apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? replied and said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is to you and your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words exhorted he them, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. For (as the same Apostle testifieth in another place) even Baptism doth also now save us, (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience towards God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Doubt ye not therefore, but earnestly believe, that he will favourably receive *these* present *Persons*, truly repenting, and coming unto him by faith; that he will grant *them* remission of *their* sins, and bestow upon *them* the Holy Ghost; that he will give *them* the blessing of

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eternal life, and make *them partakers* of his everlasting kingdom.

Wherefore, we being thus persuaded of the good will of our heavenly Father toward *these Persons*, declared by his Son Jesus Christ; let us faithfully and devoutly give thanks to him, and say,

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, heavenly Father, We give thee humble thanks, For that thou hast vouchsafed to call us to the knowledge of thy grace, and faith in thee: Increase this knowledge, And confirm this faith in us evermore. Give thy Holy Spirit to *these thy Servants*, That *they* may be born again, And be made heirs of everlasting salvation; Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, Now and for ever. Amen.

¶ *Then the Minister shall speak to the Persons to be baptized on this wise.*

**W**ELL-BELOVED, who are come hither desiring to receive holy Baptism, *ye* have heard how the congregation hath

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prayed, that our Lord Jesus Christ would vouchsafe to receive you and bless you, to release you of your sins, to give you the kingdom of heaven, and everlasting life. *Ye* have heard also, that our Lord Jesus Christ hath promised in his holy Word to grant all those things that we have prayed for; which promise he, for his part, will most surely keep and perform.

Wherefore, after this promise made by Christ, *ye* must also faithfully, for your part, in the presence of these your Witnesses, and this whole congregation, promise and answer to the following questions.

*¶ The Minister shall then demand of the Persons to be baptized as followeth; the Questions being considered as addressed to them severally, and the Answers to be made accordingly.*

### *Question.*

**D**OST thou renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow, nor be led by them?

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*Answer.* I renounce them all; and, by God's help, will endeavour not to follow, nor be led by them.

*Question.* Dost thou believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith, as contained in the Apostles' Creed?

*Answer.* I do.

*Question.* Wilt thou be baptized in this Faith?

*Answer.* That is my desire.

*Question.* Wilt thou then obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life?

*Answer.* I will, by God's help.

¶ *Then shall the Minister say,*

**O**MERCIFUL God grant that the old Adam in *these thy Servants* may be so buried, that the new man may be raised up in *them*. *Amen*.

Grant that all sinful affections may die in *them* and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *them*. *Amen*.

Grant that *they* may have power and strength to have victory, and to triumph,

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against the devil, the world, and the flesh.  
*Amen.*

Grant that *they*, being here dedicated to thee by our office and ministry, may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly rewarded, through thy mercy, O blessed Lord God, who dost live, and govern all things, world without end. *Amen.*

**A**LMIGHTY, everliving God, whose most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins, did shed out of his most precious side both water and blood; and gave commandment to his disciples, that they should go teach all nations, and baptize them In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Regard, we beseech thee, the supplications of thy congregation; sanctify this Water to the mystical washing away of sin; and grant that *these thy Servants*, now to be baptized therein, may receive the fulness of thy grace, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful children; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

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¶ *Then shall the Minister take each Person to be baptized by the right hand; and placing him conveniently by the Font, according to his discretion, shall ask the Godfathers and Godmothers the Name; and then shall dip him in the water, or pour water upon him, saying,*

**N**. I baptize thee In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

¶ *Then shall the Minister say,*

**W**E receive this Person into the congregation of Christ's flock; and do \*sign him with the sign of the Cross, in token that hereafter *he* shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and manfully to fight under his banner, against sin, the world, and the devil; and to continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto *his* life's end. Amen.

*\* Here the Minister shall make a Cross upon the Person's forehead.*

¶ *The same rule, as to the omission of the sign of the Cross, is to be observed here as in the Baptism of Infants.*

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¶ *Then shall the Minister say,*

SEEING now, dearly beloved brethren, that *these Persons are* regenerate, and grafted into the body of Christ's Church, let us give thanks unto Almighty God for these benefits; and with one accord make our prayers unto him, that *they* may lead the rest of *their* life according to this beginning.

¶ *Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer, all kneeling.*

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. Amen.

WE yield thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that it hath pleased thee to regenerate *these* thy *Servants* with thy Holy Spirit, to receive *them* for thine own *children* by adoption, and to incorporate *them* into thy holy Church. And humbly we beseech thee to grant, that *they*, being dead

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unto sin, and living unto righteousness, and being buried with Christ in his death, may crucify the old man, and utterly abolish the whole body of sin; and that, as *they are* made *partakers* of the death of thy Son, *they* may also be *partakers* of his resurrection; so that finally, with the residue of thy holy Church, *they* may be *inheritors* of thine everlasting kingdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ *Then, all standing up, the Minister shall use this Exhortation following; speaking to the Godfathers and Godmothers first.*

**F**ORASMUCH as *these Persons* have promised, in your presence, to renounce the devil and all his works, to believe in God, and to serve him; ye must remember, that it is your part and duty to put *them* in mind, what a solemn vow, promise, and profession, *they have* now made before this congregation, and especially before you *their* chosen witnesses. And ye are also to call upon *them* to use all diligence to be rightly instructed in God's holy Word; that so *they* may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of

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our Lord Jesus Christ, and live godly, righteously, and soberly, in this present world.

¶ *And then, speaking to the baptized Persons, he shall proceed and say,*

**A**ND as for you, who have now by Baptism put on Christ, it is your part and duty also, being made the *children* of God and of the light, by faith in Jesus Christ, to walk answerably to your Christian calling, and as becometh the children of light; remembering always, that Baptism doth represent unto us our profession, which is, to follow the example of our Saviour Christ, and to be made like unto him; that, as he died, and rose again for us, so should we, who are baptized, die from sin, and rise again unto righteousness; continually mortifying all our evil and corrupt affections, and daily proceeding in all virtue and godliness of living.

¶ *It is expedient that every Person, thus baptized, should be confirmed by the Bishop, so soon after his Baptism as conveniently may be; that so he may be admitted to the Holy Communion.*

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- ¶ *Whereas necessity may require the baptizing of Adults in private houses, in consideration of extreme sickness; the same is hereby allowed in that case. And a convenient number of persons shall be assembled in the house where the Sacrament is to be administered. And in the exhortation, Well-beloved, etc., instead of these words, come hither desiring, shall be inserted this word, desirous. And in case of great necessity, the Minister may begin with the questions addressed to the candidate, and end with the thanksgiving following the baptism.*
- ¶ *If there be occasion for the Office of Infant Baptism and that of Adults at the same time, the Minister shall use the exhortation and one of the prayers next following in the Office for Adults, only, in the exhortation and prayer, after the words, these Persons, and these thy Servants, adding, and these Infants. Then the Minister shall proceed to the questions to be demanded in the cases respectively. After the immersion, or the pouring of water, the prayer shall be as in this service; only, after the words, these thy Servants, shall be added, and these Infants. After which the remaining part of each service shall be used; first that for Adults, and lastly that for Infants.*
- ¶ *If any persons, not baptized in their infancy, shall be brought to be baptized before they come to years of discretion to answer for themselves, it may suffice to use the Office for Public Baptism of Infants; or, in case of extreme danger, the Office for Private Baptism; only changing the word Infant, for Child, or Person, as occasion requireth.*

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¶ *If there be reasonable doubt concerning the baptism of any person, such person may be baptized in the manner herein appointed; saving that, at the immersion or the pouring of water the Minister shall use this form of words:*

**I**F thou art not already baptized, N., I baptize thee In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Use of this order is authorized under Canon 23, Section 6 of the United Episcopal Church of North America, where permitted by the bishop.

**United Episcopal Church**  
*of North America*