

SECOND ORDER OF WORSHIP

30

May the eyes that have seen your great love
shine with the light of hope.
May the tongues that have sung your praise
also speak the truth.
May the feet that have walked in your house
ever walk in the light.
May the bodies that have tasted your living body be
restored to newness of life.
Thanks be to God for his gift beyond words.
Amen.

or

Nunc Dimittis

Now, Lord let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal you to the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

Luke 2: 29-32

(Sung Amens: 20)

12. Blessing

BAPTISM SERVICE

1. Introduction
2. The Promises
3. The Baptismal Prayer
4. The Baptism
5. Prayer

1. Introduction

We now celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism in which God has called A . . . to be a member of Christ's body. At the beginning of his ministry Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan. The Spirit descended upon him and a voice came from heaven: 'This is my beloved Son on whom my favour rests.' His baptism found fulfilment in the cross where he gave himself for the life of the world. When God raised him from the dead, he said to his disciples:

'Full authority in heaven and on earth has been committed to me. Go therefore to all nations and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teach them to observe all that I have commanded you. I will be with you always, to the end of time.'

Matt. 28: 19-20

On the day of Pentecost Peter said to the people:

'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him.'

Acts 2: 38-39

Baptism unites us to Christ and to all that God accomplishes for all people and all time. In baptism we are buried with Christ and are raised with him to new life; our sins are washed away, and we are brought into the covenant of grace; we receive the Spirit to equip us as members of Christ's body, the Church.

2. The Promises

A . . . you have come for baptism in response to the call of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Let us hear, then, in the presence of God and before us as witnesses, that you confess your faith in Christ and promise to follow him. As a congregation we will also make our promises.

To the candidate in believer's baptism

Do you believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, maker of heaven and earth, redeemer of the world, giver of life?
I do.

Do you, trusting in God's grace, repent of your sins, renounce evil, and turn to Christ?
I do.

Do you promise, trusting in God's grace, to be faithful in public and private worship, to live in the fellowship of the Church and to share in its witness.
I do.

Do you promise, by that same grace, to follow Christ and to seek to do and to bear his will all the days of your life?
I do

The Promises

N . . . you have come for the baptism of your child in response to the call of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Let us hear, then, in the presence of God, and before us as witnesses, that you confess your faith in Christ and promise to follow him. As a congregation we will also make our promises.

To parents (and sponsors) in infant baptism

Do you believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, maker of heaven and earth, redeemer of the world, giver of life?
I do.

To parents in infant baptism:

Do you promise, trusting in God's grace, that by prayer and example you will teach *A . . .* the faith of the gospel and bring *him/her* up in the worship and life of the Church?
I do.

To sponsors:

Do you promise, trusting in God's grace, to pray and care for *A . . .* and support *his/her* family as you are able?
I do.

And do you trust in his mercy alone to bring you into the fullness of the life of the world to come?
I do.

To the congregation:

Do you, as members of Christ's body and trusting in God's grace, promise to pray for *A . . .*, provide for the teaching of the gospel, and live a Christian life in the family of God?
We do.

3. The Baptismal Prayer

Almighty God,
through water you bring us bountiful love.
In the beginning
your Spirit moved over the face of the waters
bringing order out of chaos;
with the waters of the flood
you cleansed the world,
and through the Red Sea and across the Jordan
you led your people to the land of promise.
By the life and death of your Son
and by his mighty resurrection and ascension
you have given us the assurance
that healing waters will flow from him for all nations.
We pray that *A . . .*, who is washed in this water,
may be made one with Christ in his death,
cleansed from all sin
and delivered from all evil.
Send your Holy Spirit upon *A . . .*
for new birth in the family of your Church,
and raise *him/her* with Christ to full and eternal life.
For all might, majesty, authority, and power
are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

or

Almighty and eternal God
 we give you thanks
 for our life and salvation in Jesus your Son,
 who became one with us
 and died and rose again,
 so that we might have life in him,
 be made members of your Church
 and heirs of your kingdom.
 Be with us in the power of your Spirit,
 and so use this water and our obedience to Christ,
 that A . . . whom we baptize in your name,
 may receive the fullness of your grace
 and always remain in the number of your faithful people;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

4. The Baptism

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

Amen.

May the Lord bless you and take care of you;
 May the Lord be kind and gracious to you;
 May the Lord look on you with favour
 and give you peace.

or

The Lord bless you and keep you;
 the Lord make his face to shine upon you
 and be gracious unto you;
 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
 and give you peace. Amen.

Num. 6: 24-6

A lighted candle may be given

This is to show that you have received the light of Christ. Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

You are witnesses that A . . . has been received into the household of God, the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

He/she belongs to a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
 God's own people.

For believer's baptism

The Minister lays his/her hand on the head of the candidate and says:

A . . ., the God of all grace, who has called you to Christian faith and service, confirm and strengthen you with the Holy Spirit and keep you faithful to Christ all your days.

Amen.

For infant baptism

5. Prayer

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for receiving this little child by baptism into the life of your Church. Keep *him/her* always in your love; grant that *he/she* may grow strong in body and in mind; protect *him/her* in all dangers and temptations; and bring *him/her* to faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

We ask your blessing on the parents, family, and friends of this child. Help them to surround *him/her* with love and security, give them grace and wisdom to teach your truth and your way. Through their love for this child may they learn to love you more. We commend to you their home and all the families of this congregation.

Grant that in our homes we may honour you and love and serve each other. Accept us as we recall our own baptism and rededicate ourselves to you; and help us to care for all who are one with us in the life of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

The right hand of fellowship is given.

5. Prayer

Almighty God, we give you thanks for A . . ., who has been baptized today, for the grace of your acceptance and the promise of resurrection. Uphold and strengthen *him/her* for your service and keep *him/her* always true to Christ.

Let your blessing rest continually
upon us all so that we who have
been called to enter your
kingdom, may now and always be
found faithful; through Jesus
Christ our Lord.
Amen.