

SACRAMENT OF ADULT (BELIEVER) BAPTISM

At the appropriate time, the candidates shall present themselves before the congregation. A hymn fitting the occasion may be sung.

The Minister shall address the congregation:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us hear the Word of God as it is recorded in this Acts of the Apostles, the second chapter: “And Peter said to them, ‘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 you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one who the Lord our God calls to Him.’”...So those who received his word were baptized... and they devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Beloved in Christ, forasmuch as our Savior did commission his disciples to go and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of His great mercy, He will grant to (this/these) person(s) now to be baptized. His grace, so that (he/she/they) may serve Him faithfully, be (a) true member(s) of the Church, and (an) heir(s) of eternal life.

The Minister shall then address the candidate(s)

We greatly rejoice that God the Holy Spirit has brought you to repentance of sin and to personal faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. By presenting yourself (yourselves) for this sacrament, you declare your faith, and your purpose to live the new life in Christ. That all here present may know of your profession, please respond to the following questions:

1. Do you believe that the Holy Bible is the actual, authoritative Word of the one true and living God, and that therein only is proclaimed the way of salvation?

Answer: I DO.

2. Have you experienced the forgiveness of your sins through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord?

Answer: I HAVE

3. Are you determined, by the grace of God, to live the Christian life, to devote yourself to the study of God’s Word and to prayer, and to be a faithful participant in the work of His kingdom?

Answer: I AM

4. Is it now your desire to be baptized in this faith?

Answer: IT IS

Then the Minister shall ask each candidate to state his/her full name.

Then the Minister shall repeat the candidate’s name, sprinkle or pour water on (his/her) forehead, OR immerse (him/her) in water, with the Baptismal Formula:

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

Then shall the Minister say to those baptized:

And now dear (brother(s)/sister(s)), the vows of the Lord are upon you. Of your own free will you have sought this solemn Christian sacrament. You have here pledged allegiance to Jesus Christ and to Him alone. His appointment is upon you, and you go forth a confessor of Christ before the world. Be steadfast and true, and let your baptism prove the sacramental seal of a lifelong covenant with God, for our Savior said, 'Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father in Heaven.'

Those baptized may here be encouraged to share a brief word of personal testimony before the congregation.

The Minister shall conclude with prayer.