

SACRAMENT OF INFANT BAPTISM

Christian baptism is a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ and administered by the church from its beginning. The formal application of water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is a sign and seal to recognize that the person so consecrated stands in a holy covenant relation to God and His people. Recognizing this child (or these children) as under the atonement of Christ and as a part of the spiritual family of God, we consider (him, her or them) (a) worthy subject(s) for Christian baptism.

The Baptism:

Let us pay reverent attention to the reading from God's Word: "People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them." (Mark 10:13-16)

As parents presenting your child for baptism you signify your own personal faith in Jesus Christ; you bear witness to your belief that the child stands in holy covenant relation to God and His people through the finished work of Christ, and you publicly affirm the reality of God's grace at work in the life of your child.

Is this your belief and purpose in presenting your child for baptism?

If so, answer: IT IS.

(The pastor may take the child into his arms for the baptism if so desired.)

_____ (full name of child), I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(The child may be returned to the parents.)

Let us pray: Our heavenly Father, we thank You that Your loving arms are open to encompass all who come to You in faith and that our children are in a covenant relationship with You and Your church. We thank You for Your unmerited favor toward us and the impartation of Your grace upon us on the occasion of the sacrament of baptism. May the fullness of Your grace be upon this child whom we have baptized in Your name. Grant that the Holy Spirit may guide _____ in the path of truth, lead _____ to accept Christ by faith, give _____ victory over evil, empower _____ to live in holiness, and at last receive _____ into Your eternal home. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Parental Declaration:

Having already stated your personal faith in Jesus Christ, it is important that you also recognize the awesome and serious responsibility that is yours as parents in the raising of the child entrusted to your care.

Will you set before the child the example of godly life, and will you pray for and with your child, instructing _____ in the elements of the Christian faith?

If so, answer: WE WILL.

Will you seek to lead _____ to acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior, train _____ in the Christian life, show _____ the way of holiness, and endeavor to bring _____ into the membership of the church?

If so, answer: WE WILL, BY THE HELP OF GOD.

Sponsors Declaration (Optional):

Having heard the promises of the parents, will you who have come forward with them promise to assist them in carrying out their resolve?

If so, answer: WE WILL.

Congregational Declaration:

Children of believing parents, through Christian baptism become a special responsibility of the church. It is our duty and privilege as a congregation to receive this child into the care of the church and to minister to _____, welfare in every way possible. It is also our responsibility to assist the parents in fulfilling the commitments made here today.

As a congregation, you too shall have a part in the spiritual growth of this family. They need you for prayer support, to assist in Bible teaching, for sharing in the fellowship of believers and to provide opportunities, facilities and personnel through which both parents and child can enter into the fullness of the Christian experience and expression.

Will you, as members of the congregation, promise to do all in your power to show this child true godliness by kind words and loving deeds? Will you undertake to provide facilities and opportunities for Christian training and fellowship? And will you assist the parents in bringing the child to a personal commitment of life to Christ?

If so, answer: WE WILL.

Prayer for Parents and Congregation:

Almighty God, bless these parents who have dedicated themselves to the task of bringing up the child to seek and know Christ. Grant them wisdom and power, love and compassion, tenderness and firmness as together they strive to fulfill the vows made this day before You and this congregation.

Grant that the people of this congregation, who have agreed to assist in the training of this child, may always with openness welcome every opportunity to share in the fulfilling of this awesome responsibility. May this congregation continue to provide a loving atmosphere, the Biblical teaching, and the spiritual unity in which the family can grow. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.