FAMILY SERVICE WITH BAPTISM

Minister: Welcome and opening prayer

Hymn/Song:

Bible Reading: Jesus Baptism

Introduction

BAPTISM

The minister addresses the whole congregation:

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome *these children* and uphold *them* in their new life in Christ?
All: With the help of God, we will.

The minister then says to the parents and godparents:

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *these children* with joy. Today we are trusting God for *their* growth in faith. Will you pray for *them*, draw *them* by your example into the community of faith and walk with *them* in the way of Christ?
All: With the help of God, we will.

Minister: In baptism *these children* begin *their* journey in faith.
You speak for *them* today. Will you care for *them* and help *them* to take *their* place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?
All: With the help of God, we will.

DECISION
The minister addresses the candidates through their parents and godparents:
We all wander far from God and lose our way:Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home. In baptism we respond to his call.
Therefore, I ask:
Do you turn away from sin?
I do.
Do you reject evil?
I do.
The candidates, together with their parents, godparents and sponsors, may turn at this point.
Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?
I turn to Christ.
Do you submit to Christ as Lord?
I submit to Christ.
Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM

Minister:
Praise God who made heaven and earth
who keeps his promise for ever.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.
The minister prays over the water
Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life. We pray that, by your Spirit, this water may bring *N* to new life in Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. **Amen**

Minister:
Together with these who are being baptised, let us affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life?
I believe and trust in him.
Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who died for us and rose again?
I believe and trust in him.
Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?
I believe and trust in him.
This is the faith of the church.
This is our faith.
We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

BAPTISM

The minister pours water on the candidates, saying:

N, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**
.
May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory. **Amen**.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

The sign of the cross is made on the forehead of each candidate

Minister:

N, Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of the cross. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

Minister:

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen**.

COMMISSION

This Bible is a gift for you and your family from the Church. There are short stories for you and your family to read to help you get to know more about Jesus and keep the promises you've made today.

Minister:

As part of the Church of Christ, we all have a duty to support these children by prayer, example and teaching. Let us now pray for grace in guiding them to grow up as Christians within the family of the Church:

Faithful and loving God, bless those who care for these children and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith.
Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love and protect their home from all evil.
Fill them with the light of your presence and establish them in the joy of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME AND PEACE

Minister:
There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: *N*, by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.
We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

Hymn/Song:

Bible Reading:

Talk:

THE PRAYERS including the Lord's Prayer below

All: 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Hymn/Song:

GIVING OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

each of the newly baptised are given a lighted candle.

Minister:
Receive this light. This is a symbol of God's grace, that you may pass from darkness to light. Walk in this light all the days of your life.

Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Final Hymn / song:

CLOSING PRAYER AND THE BLESSING

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