

The Order for the Ministration of Holy Baptism of Infants and Adults

(REC-BCP pg 457)

¶ At the appointed time, immediately after the reading of the Gospel in the Holy Communion, or at such other time as the Minister shall appoint, the sponsors (and the parents) with the child or adult person to be baptized must be ready at the Font, and the Presbyter coming to the Font (which is to be filled with pure Water), and standing there, the people also standing throughout, shall say,

HATH this Child (or Person) been already baptized, or no?

¶ If they answer, **No**: then shall the Presbyter proceed as follows.

DEARLY beloved, forasmuch as all men are conceived and born in sin; and that 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 mercy he will grant to *this Child (or Person)* that which by nature *he* cannot have; that *he* may be baptized with Water and the Holy Ghost, and received into Christ's holy Church, and be made a living member of the same.

¶ Then shall the Presbyter say,

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY 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 Water to the mystical washing away of sin: We beseech thee, for thine infinite mercies, that thou wilt mercifully look upon *this Child (or Person)*; wash *him* and sanctify *him* with the Holy Ghost; that *he*, 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 love, may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, that finally *he* may come to the land of everlasting life, there to reign with thee, world without end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY 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 *this Child (or Person)*, that *he*, coming to thy holy Baptism, may receive remission of *his* sins, by spiritual regeneration. Receive *him*, O Lord, as thou hast promised by thy well-beloved Son, saying, Ask, and ye shall have; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. So give now unto us who ask; let us who seek, find; open the gate unto us who knock; that *this Child (or Person)* 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 Presbyter shall say,

Hear the words of the Gospel, written by Saint Mark, in the tenth chapter, at the thirteenth verse:

THEY brought young children to Christ, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

¶ Or this.

Hear the words of the Gospel, written by Saint John, in the third chapter, at the first verse:

THERE 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 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.

¶ Or this.

Hear the words of the Gospel, written by Saint Matthew, in the twenty-eighth chapter, at the eighteenth verse:

JESUS came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

¶ Then shall the Minister say,

AND now, being persuaded of the good will of our heavenly Father toward *this Child (or Person)*, declared by his Son Jesus Christ; let us faithfully and devoutly give thanks unto him, and say,

¶ Minister and people.

*ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, heavenly Father,
We give thee humble thanks, 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 this Child (or Person), that he may be born again, and
be made an heir of everlasting salvation;
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee
and the same Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.*

¶ When the Office is used for **children**, the Presbyter shall speak unto the parents and sponsors the following.

DEARLY beloved, ye have brought *this Child* here to be baptized, ye have prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would vouchsafe to receive *him*, to release *him* from *his* sins, to sanctify *him* with the Holy Ghost, to give *him* the kingdom of heaven, and everlasting life.

Ye have heard also that our Lord Jesus Christ hath promised in his Gospel to grant all these things that ye have prayed for: which promise he, for his part, will most surely keep and perform.

Wherefore, after this promise made by Christ, *this Child* must also faithfully, for *his* part, promise by you who are *his* sureties (until *he* come of age to take it upon *himself*), that *he* will renounce the devil and all his works, and constantly believe God's holy Word, and obediently keep his commandments.

I ask therefore,

DOST thou, in the name of *this Child*, 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?

Answer. I renounce them all.

Minister. Dost thou believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?

And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son our Lord? And that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; that he went down into hell, and also did rise again the third day; that he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from thence shall come again at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead?

And dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the Communion of Saints; the Remission of sins; the Resurrection of the body; and everlasting Life after death?

Answer. All this I steadfastly believe.

Minister. Wilt thou be baptized in this Faith?

Answer. That is my desire.

Minister. 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.

Minister. Having now, in the name of *this Child*, made these promises, wilt thou also on thy part, take heed that *this Child* be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; be diligently instructed in the Holy Scriptures; and learn the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to *his* soul's health?

Answer. I will, by God's help.

Minister. Wilt thou take heed that *this Child*, so soon as sufficiently instructed, be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him?

Answer. I will, God being my helper.

¶ When the Office is used for **adults**, the Presbyter shall address them as follows, the

persons to be baptized answering the Questions for themselves.

WELL-BELOVED, ye have come hither desiring to receive holy Baptism. We have prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would vouchsafe to receive you and bless you, to release you from 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, promise in the presence of these your witnesses, and this whole congregation, that ye will renounce the devil and all his works, and constantly believe God's holy Word, and obediently keep his commandments.

¶ Then shall the Presbyter ask of each of the persons to be baptized, severally, these Questions following.

DOST 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?

Answer. I renounce them all.

Minister. Dost thou believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?

And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son our Lord? And that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; that he went down into hell, and also did rise again the third day; that he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from thence shall come again at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead?

And dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the Communion of Saints; the Remission of sins; the Resurrection of the body; and everlasting Life after death?

Answer. All this I steadfastly believe.

Minister. Wilt thou be baptized in this Faith?

Answer. That is my desire.

Minister. 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 Presbyter say,

O MERCIFUL God, grant that the old Adam in *this Child* (or *Person*) may be so buried, that the new man may be raised up in *him*. *Amen*.

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

Grant that *he* may have power and strength to have victory, and to triumph, against the devil, the world, and the flesh. *Amen*.

Grant that *he*, 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*.

Minister. The Lord be with you.

Answer. *And with thy spirit*.

Minister. Lift up your hearts.

Answer. *We lift them up unto the Lord*.

Minister. Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Answer. *It is meet and right so to do*.

¶ Then shall the Presbyter consecrate the Water, saying,

IT is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, for that thy 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 *this Child* (or *Person*), now to be baptized therein, may receive the fullness of thy grace, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful and elect children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and evermore. *Amen*.

¶ Then the Presbyter shall take each Child into his arms (or each adult by the right hand), and shall say to the sponsors,

Name this Person.

¶ And then, naming the person accordingly, he shall sprinkle or pour Water upon him, or else shall dip him in the Water discreetly, saying,

(N) I baptize thee In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the

Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

¶ Then the Presbyter shall say, (with congregation)

*WE receive this Child (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 Presbyter shall make a Cross upon the person's forehead.

¶ Then shall the Presbyter say,

SEEING now, dearly beloved brethren, that *this Child (or Person)* is 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 *this Child (or Person)* may lead the rest of *his* life according to this beginning.

¶ Then shall be said,

*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.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

¶ Then shall the Presbyter say,

WE yield thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that it hath pleased thee to regenerate *this Child (or Person)* with thy Holy Spirit, to receive *him* for thine own *Child* by adoption, and to incorporate *him* into thy holy Church. And humbly we beseech thee to grant, that *he*, being dead 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 *he* is made partaker of the death of thy Son, *he* may also be partaker of his resurrection; so that finally, with the residue of thy holy Church, *he* may be an inheritor of thine everlasting kingdom; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

¶ Then, the Presbyter may say to the sponsors of the **child** this Exhortation following,

FORASMUCH as *this Child* hath promised by you *his* sureties 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 see that *this Child* be taught, so soon as *he* shall be able to learn, what a solemn vow, promise, and profession, *he* hath here made by you. And that *he* may know these things the better, ye shall call upon *him* to hear Sermons; and chiefly ye shall provide, that *he* may learn the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to *his* soul's health; and that *this Child* may be virtuously brought up to lead a godly and a Christian life; 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.

¶ Then shall he say,

YE are to take care that *this Child* be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him, so soon as *he* can say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and be further instructed in the Catechism set forth for that purpose.

¶ Or, when an **adult** is baptized, the Presbyter shall use this Exhortation following; speaking to the sponsors first.

FORASMUCH as *this Person* hath 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 *him* in mind, what a solemn vow, promise, and profession *he* hath now made before this congregation, and especially before you *his* chosen witnesses. And ye are also to call upon *him* to use all diligence to be rightly instructed in God's holy Word; that so *he* may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and live godly, righteously, and soberly in this present world.

¶ And then, speaking to the newly baptized person, the Presbyter shall say,

AND as for you, who have now by Baptism put on Christ, it is your part and duty also, being made the child 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 representeth 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.

¶ Then the Presbyter shall add,

THE Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named; Grant you to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that, Christ dwelling in your hearts by faith, ye may be filled with all the fullness of God. *Amen.*