

3

Initiation Services

Alternative Services Series 3

AS 330

Black numbers indicate material which is mandatory

Blue numbers indicate material which is optional

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Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child Thanksgiving after Adoption

NOTES

- 1 Unless Baptism is to follow immediately, the minister shall explain to the parents or adoptive parents on some occasion before the service or after sections 6 or 24, that the service of thanksgiving is not baptism, which is the sacrament instituted by Christ for those who wish to become members of his Church.
- 2 These services should normally be used in church. Use in the home or in hospital is permitted at the discretion of the priest.
- 3 Whenever possible, in addition to both parents or adoptive parents and the child, any other children of the family should be present.
- 4 These services may be used at Holy Communion or at Morning or Evening Prayer. At Holy Communion they may be used either at the beginning of the service or after the Sermon; and the Prayers of Intercession may be omitted. At Morning or Evening Prayer they may be used either at the beginning of the service or after the Second Lesson or after the Sermon.
- 5 If these services are used on their own, the minister may add suitable hymns and scripture readings, and a sermon.
- 6 If these services are to be followed immediately by Baptism, it is sufficient to use, after a birth, sections 1-5; after an adoption, sections 19-23, 27, and 28.
- 7 The 1662 or Series 2 version of the Lord's Prayer may be said in place of that printed at sections 8 and 26.

Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child

- 1 Minister Let us thank God that in his goodness he has given you *this son/daughter*
God our Father,
maker of all that is living,
we praise you for the wonder and joy
of creation.
We thank you from our hearts
for the life of *this child*,
for a safe delivery,
and for the privilege of parenthood.
Accept our thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
- 2 **The parents of the child may say together**
God our Father,
in giving us *this child*
you have shown us your love.
Help us to be trustworthy parents.
Make us patient and understanding,
that our *child* may always be sure of
our love,
and grow up to be happy and responsible;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
- 3 **All say one of the following**
- 4 **Either**
Minister My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
All my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.
Minister Glory and honour and power are yours by
right, O Lord our God;
**All for you created all things, and by your will
they have their being.**
Minister Holy, holy, holy, is God the sovereign Lord
of all,
All who is, and who was, and who is to come.

Minister Great and marvellous are your deeds,
O Lord God,
All just and true are your ways, O King of
the ages.

Minister Praise our God, all you his servants,
All you that fear him, both great and small.

Minister His mercy rests on those who fear him,
All now and for countless ages. Amen.

5 Or PSALM 100

O shout to the Lord in triumph, all the earth:
serve the Lord with gladness, and come
before his face with songs of joy.

Know that the Lord he is God:
it is he who has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Come into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise:
give thanks to him, and bless his holy name.

For the Lord is good, his loving mercy is for ever:
his faithfulness throughout all generations.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.

6 Minister

Hear these words from the Gospel according to St Mark:
They brought children for Jesus to touch. The disciples
rebuked them, but when Jesus saw this, he was indignant
and said to them, 'Let the children come to me, do not
try to stop them; for the kingdom of God belongs to
such as these. I tell you, whoever does not accept the
kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.'
And he put his arms round them, laid his hands upon
them, and blessed them. *Mark 10.13-16*

7 The minister may give a copy of one of the gospels to the
parents, saying

This book contains the Good News of God's
love. Read it, for it tells how you and your
family can share in eternal life, through
repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

8 Minister Jesus taught us to call God our Father,
and so in faith and trust we say

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.
Do not bring us to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

9 Minister Almighty God, look with favour on *this child*;
grant that, being nourished with all goodness,
he may grow in discipline and grace until *he*
comes to the fullness of faith; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

10 The minister then says one or more of these prayers.

11 Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at
Nazareth the life of an earthly home: bless
the *home* of *this child*, and help all *the family*
to live together in your love. Teach them to
serve you and each other, and make them
always ready to show your love to those in
need; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

12 Father in heaven, bless these parents, that they may cherish their *child*; make them wise and understanding, to help *him* as *he grows*, and surround *this family* with the light of your truth and the warmth of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

13 Almighty Father, we thank you that you have made the love of Christ for his bride the Church to be a pattern for the marriage of husband and wife. We pray that these your servants may grow in love and self-giving to each other, all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

14 God our Father, we pray to you for all who have the care of *this child*. Guide them with your Holy Spirit, that they may bring *him* up in the ways of truth and love. Through their care enable *him* to grow in grace and become daily more like your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

15 Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Have compassion on our weakness, and give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not and for our blindness we cannot ask, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

16 **This prayer may be said by all**

God our Father,
we pray for *this child*
that in due time
***he* may be received by baptism**
into the family of your Church,
and become an *inheritor* of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

17 **The minister ends the service with one of the following BLESSINGS:**

The Lord bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you
and give you peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

18 The love of the Lord Jesus draw you
to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you
in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Thanksgiving after Adoption

19 Minister Let us thank God that in his goodness he has given you this *son/daughter*

God our Father,
maker of all that is living,
we praise you for the wonder and joy
of creation.

We thank you from our hearts
for the life of *this child*,
and for the privilege of parenthood.
Accept our thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

20 **The parents of the child may say together**

God our Father,
in giving us *this child*
you have shown us your love.
Help us to be trustworthy parents.
Make us patient and understanding,
that our *child* may always be sure
of our love,
and grow up to be happy and responsible;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

21 **All say one of the following**

22 **Either**

Minister My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
All my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

Minister Glory and honour and power are yours by
right, O Lord our God;
**All for you created all things, and by your will
they have their being.**

Minister Holy, holy, holy, is God the sovereign Lord
of all,
All who is, and who was, and who is to come.

Minister Great and marvellous are your deeds,
O Lord God;
**All just and true are your ways, O King of
the ages.**

Minister Praise our God, all you his servants,
All you that fear him, both great and small.

Minister His mercy rests on those who fear him,
All now and for countless ages. Amen.

23 **Or PSALM 100**

**O shout to the Lord in triumph, all the earth:
serve the Lord with gladness, and come
before his face with songs of joy.**

**Know that the Lord he is God:
it is he who has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Come into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise:
give thanks to him, and bless his holy name.**

**For the Lord is good, his loving mercy is for ever:
his faithfulness throughout all generations.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

24 Minister

Hear these words from the Gospel according to St Mark:
They brought children for Jesus to touch. The disciples
rebuked them, but when Jesus saw this, he was indignant
and said to them, 'Let the children come to me; do not
try to stop them; for the kingdom of God belongs to
such as these. I tell you, whoever does not accept the
kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.' And
he put his arms round them, laid his hands upon them,
and blessed them. *Mark 10.13-16*

25 **The minister may give a copy of one of the gospels to the parents, saying**

This book contains the Good News of God's love. Read it, for it tells how you and your family can share in eternal life, through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

26 Minister Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and so in faith and trust we say

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.
Do not bring us to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

27 Minister Almighty God, look with favour on *this child*; grant that, being nourished with all goodness, *he* may grow in discipline and grace until *he* comes to the fullness of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

28 God, whose nature is always to have mercy, look down with love on the natural father and mother of this child; keep them in your good providence, and give them your peace in their hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

29 **The members of the family then say together**

We receive this child into our family with thanksgiving and joy.
Through the love of God we receive *him*;
with the love of God we will care for *him*;
by the love of God we will guide *him*;
and in the love of God may we all abide for ever. **Amen.**

30 Minister Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: bless the *home* of *this child*, and help all *the family* to live together in your love. Teach them to serve you and each other, and make them always ready to show your love to those in need; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

31 **This prayer may be said by all**

**God our Father,
we pray for *this child*,
that in due time
he may be received by baptism
into the family of your Church,
and become an inheritor of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

32 **The minister ends the service with one of these BLESSINGS**

The Lord bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you
and give you peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you
to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you
in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

When these services are used on their own (see Note 5),
readings may be chosen from the following:

Gen. 1.26–28, 31a	Rom. 8.28–30	Matt. 7.24–27
1 Sam. 1.20–end	Rom. 12.1–2	Luke 2.22, 28a (28b–35)
Tobit 8.5–6	Eph. 3.14–21	John 15.9–12

Prayers after the Birth of a Still-born Child or the Death of a Newly-born Child

These prayers may be used in church, in hospital, or in the home; and where appropriate they may be used at the burial or cremation of a still-born or newly-born child.

- 1 Gracious Father,
in darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us to trust your love,
to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
- 2 Loving Father, in your mercy you have brought your daughter *N* through childbirth in safety. We pray that she will know your support in this time of trouble and enjoy your protection always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
- 3 Almighty God, you make nothing in vain, and love all that you have made. Comfort this woman (and her husband) in *their* sorrow, and console *them* by the knowledge of your unfailing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
- 4 God of loving kindness, comfort *N* (and *N*) in *their* distress that *they* may hold to you through good and ill, and always trust in your unfailing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
- 5 Father in heaven, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to suffering and to death on the cross, and raised him to life in glory. Grant us a patient faith in time of darkness, and strengthen our hearts with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

- 6 Let us commend *this child* to the love of God our Father.
Heavenly Father, by your mighty power you gave us life,
and in your love you have given us new life in Christ
Jesus. We entrust *this child* to your merciful keeping,
in the faith of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who died
and rose again to save us, and is now alive and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit in glory for ever. **Amen.**
- 7 God is our refuge and strength:
a very present help in trouble.
Though my flesh and my heart fail me:
you, O God, are my portion as ever.
Forsake me not, O Lord,
go not far from me, my God:
hasten to my help, O Lord my salvation.
Why are you so full of heaviness, my soul:
and why so unquiet within me?
O put your trust in God:
for I will praise him yet,
who is my deliverer and my God.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. **Amen.**

8 **Alternative psalms**

23; 31.1-6; 103.8,13-17; 130; 139.1-9; 142.1-6.

Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion

An order of service for:

The baptism and confirmation of adults

The baptism of families and confirmation of adults

The baptism of adults

The baptism of families

The baptism of children

The confirmation of those already baptized

If either the baptism of children or the confirmation of those already baptized is to be administered on its own, then the separate services at sections 40 and 62 respectively should be used.

NOTES

- Baptism without Confirmation** Adults who are to be baptized should normally be confirmed at the same service; but when they are to be baptized without confirmation, sections 22-25 are omitted.
- Family Baptism** When children who are not old enough to answer for themselves are to be baptized at the same time as their parents, the parents answer the questions for themselves and for their children, saying
*We turn to Christ,
We repent of our sins,
We renounce evil,
We believe and trust in him.*
When children who are old enough to respond are baptized, the parents and godparents answer the questions, and, at the discretion of the priest, the children also may answer them. When children and their parents are baptized on the same occasion, it is fitting that the children are baptized immediately after their own parents.
- The Signing with the Cross** The signing with the cross may take place either at section 14 or at section 20. The sign of the cross may be made in oil blessed for this purpose.
- The Giving of a Candle** A lighted candle, which may be the paschal candle, may be made ready so that other candles may be lighted from it.
- At the signing of the cross and the giving of a candle, the Bishop or other minister may address the candidate by name.
- The People's Responses** At the signing with the cross it is sufficient if the people join in and say their part (sections 14 and 20) once only, when all have been signed; and if a candle is given to those who have been baptized, it is sufficient if the people join in and say their part (section 21) once only, when all have received a candle.
- Anointing with Oil** At section 24 the Bishop may anoint candidates with oil which he has previously blessed for this purpose.
- Where it is prescribed that anything is to be said or done by the Bishop, he may delegate it to other ministers; but only the Bishop is to confirm (section 24).
- Permitted omissions** Sections with numbers in blue may be omitted.
- Lessons** The Bishop may direct lessons to be read other than those appointed in this order, subject to the provisions of the *Rules to Order the Service*.
- When candidates for confirmation are presented at the same service as candidates for both baptism and confirmation, the precise ordering of the service and the place of baptism should be determined by consultation between the Bishop and the parish priest.
- The Administration of Baptism** A threefold administration of water (whether by dipping or pouring) is a very ancient practice of the Church and is commended as testifying to the faith of the Trinity in which candidates are baptized. Nevertheless, a single administration is also lawful and valid.
- At the discretion of the Bishop, the renewal of baptismal vows by members of the congregation may take place after section 10 instead of at section 27.

Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion

THE PREPARATION

- 1 At the entry of the ministers this, or another appropriate SENTENCE, may be used

The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation. *Ps. 118.14*
and a hymn or a canticle may be sung.

- 2 Bishop The Lord be with you.
All And also with you.

- 3 If the PRAYERS OF PENITENCE (Holy Communion Series 3, sections 17-20) are to be used, they follow here.

- 4 Bishop Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by that same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- 5 Sit
OLD TESTAMENT LESSON
If a lesson from the Old Testament is to be read, one of the following may be chosen

Gen. 7.17-23 (or 7.17-8.5) Isa. 43.1-3a, 6b-7
Exod. 14.19-31 Isa. 44.1-5
Deut. 30.15-20 Jer. 31.31-34
2 Kings 5.1-15a Ezek. 36.25a, 26-28

At the end the reader may say

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept.

- 6 PSALM 107.1-9 may be sung (pp.42-43).

- 7 NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

If a lesson from the New Testament is to be read, one of the following may be chosen

Acts 16.25-34 1 Cor. 12.12-13
Rom. 6.3-11 Gal. 5.16-25
Rom. 8.11-17 1 Pet. 2.4-10

At the end the reader may say

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept.

- 8 A CANTICLE or a HYMN may be sung.

- 9 Stand
THE GOSPEL When it is announced
All Glory to Christ our Saviour.

One of the following may be chosen

Matt. 16.24-27 Mark 1.14-20
Matt. 28.16-20 John 3.1-8
Mark 1.1-11 John 15.1-11

At the end the reader may say

All This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

Silence may be kept.

Sit
THE SERMON
At the end, silence may be kept.

THE DECISION

11 If children are to be baptized, sections 40 and 41 may be used here.

12 Those who are to be baptized, the parents and godparents of children to be baptized, and those who are to be confirmed stand before the Bishop. He says

Our Lord Jesus Christ suffered death on the cross and rose again from the dead for the salvation of mankind. Baptism is the outward sign by which we receive for ourselves what he has done for us: we are united with him in his death; we are granted the forgiveness of sins; we are raised with Christ to new life in the Spirit.

Those of you who have come for baptism must affirm your allegiance to Christ and your rejection of all that is evil.

[Those parents and godparents who present children for baptism must bring them up to fight against evil and to follow Christ.]*

*When no children are to be baptized, the words in brackets are omitted.

Those of you who come to be confirmed must with your own mouth and from your own heart declare your allegiance to Christ and your rejection of all that is evil.

13 Therefore I ask these questions. [Parents and godparents must answer both for themselves and for *these children*.]*

Answer Do you turn to Christ?
I turn to Christ.

Answer Do you repent of your sins?
I repent of my sins.

Answer Do you renounce evil?
I renounce evil.

14 Either here or at section 20 the Bishop makes THE SIGN OF THE CROSS on the forehead of each one who is to be baptized, saying to each

I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

After the signing of each or all, he says

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

All Fight valiantly under the banner of Christ against sin, the world, and the devil, and continue his faithful soldiers and servants to the end of your lives.

15 Bishop May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All Amen.

PSALM 121 or some other suitable psalm or hymn may be sung.

THE BAPTISM

- 16 **The Bishop stands before the water of baptism and says**

All Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Bishop Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ
was baptized in the river Jordan:
we thank you for the gift of water
to cleanse and revive us;
we thank you that through the waters of the
Red Sea, you led your people out of slavery
to freedom in the promised land;
we thank you that through the deep waters
of death you brought your Son, and raised
him to life in triumph.

Bless this water, that your *servants* who are
washed in it may be made one with Christ
in his death and in his resurrection,
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Send your Holy Spirit upon *them* to bring
them to new birth in the family of your
Church, and raise *them* with Christ to full
and eternal life.

For all might, majesty, authority, and power
are yours, now and for ever.

All Amen.

- 17 **The Bishop says to adults who are to be baptized**

You must now declare before God and his
Church the Christian faith into which you
are to be baptized and in which you will
live and grow.

[To parents and godparents of children who are to be
baptized he says

You must now declare before God and his
Church the Christian faith into which *these
children* are to be baptized, and in which you
will help *them* to live and grow. You must
answer for yourselves and for *these children*.]

[To those who have already been baptized and are now to
be confirmed, he says

You must now declare before God and his
Church that you accept the Christian faith into
which you were baptized, and in which you
will live and grow.]

Then he says

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made the world?

Answer I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son
Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind?

Answer I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?

Answer I believe and trust in him.

- 18 **The Bishop turns to the congregation and says**

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- 19 **The Bishop then baptizes the candidates. He dips each
one in the water or pours water on him, addressing him
by name.**

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

And each one of his sponsors answers

Amen.

- 20 **The Bishop makes THE SIGN OF THE CROSS on the
forehead of each one, if he has not already done so. The
appropriate words are printed at section 14.**

- 21 The priest or other person may give a **LIGHTED CANDLE** to each adult who has been baptized, and to a parent or godparent for each child. saying to each

Receive this light.

And when a candle has been given to each one, he says

This is to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

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

THE CONFIRMATION

- 22 The Bishop stands before those to be confirmed and says

All Our help is in the name of the Lord who has made heaven and earth.

All Blessed be the name of the Lord now and for ever. Amen.

- 23 The Bishop stretches out his hands towards them and says

Almighty and everliving God, you have given *your servants* new birth in baptism by water and the Spirit, and have forgiven *them* all *their* sins. Let your Holy Spirit rest upon *them*: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding; the Spirit of counsel and inward strength; the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and let *their* delight be in the fear of the Lord.

All Amen.

- 24 The Bishop lays his hands on the head of each candidate, saying

Confirm, O Lord, your servant *N* with your Holy Spirit.

and each one answers

Amen.

- 25 After confirmation, the Bishop invites the people to join with him and say

Defend, O Lord, *your servants* with your heavenly grace, that *they* may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until *they come* to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.

THE WELCOME

- 26 The Bishop and the congregation, representing the whole Church, welcome the candidates.

Bishop God has received you by baptism into his Church.

All We welcome you into the Lord's Family. We are members together of the body of Christ; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we are inheritors together of the kingdom of God. We welcome you.

- 27 If some members of the congregation are now to make a renewal of their baptismal vows, sections 90-93 may be used here.

THE PEACE

- 28 The Bishop continues the Holy Communion with the Peace (Holy Communion Series 3, sections 21–22).
- 29 The service proceeds according to that order, except as shown below.

PROPERS

Thanksgiving

And now we give you thanks because by the Holy Spirit you lead us into all truth and give us power to preach your gospel to the nations, and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Postcommunion Sentence

God who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. *Romans 8.11*

- 30 The Bishop says both THE BLESSING and THE DISMISSAL (Holy Communion Series 3, sections 42–43).

Baptism and Confirmation when they are not immediately followed by Holy Communion

- A The service follows the order to be used at Holy Communion (sections 1–27 above). One, two, or three lessons may be used as the Bishop directs.

After section 27, the Bishop says one or more of these prayers

- 31 **For adults who have now been baptized**
We thank you, heavenly Father, that by your Holy Spirit you have given your *servants* new birth, adopted *them* to be your *children*, and made *them* members of your Church. We pray that, in the power of the Spirit, *they* may live and grow in your service, and attain your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
- 32 **For those who have now been confirmed**
Heavenly Father, we pray for your *servants* upon whom we have now laid our hands, after the example of the apostles, to assure *them* by this sign of your favour towards *them*. May your fatherly hand ever be over *them*, your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*. Strengthen *them* continually with the body and blood of your Son, and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your word that in the end *they* may obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
- 33 **For children who have been baptized and their parents**
Lord God our Father, maker of heaven and earth, we thank you that by your Holy Spirit *these children* have been born again into new life, adopted for your own, and received

into the fellowship of your Church: we pray that *they* may grow in the faith into which *they* have been baptized; that *they* may profess it for *themselves* when *they* come to be confirmed; and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *them*. We pray also for *their* parents; give them the spirit of wisdom and love, that their *homes* may reflect the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

34 **For all Christian people**

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptized in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

35 **For the Church's witness**

Almighty God, whose Holy Spirit equips the Church with a rich variety of gifts; grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love. Make us ready to live his gospel and eager to do his will, that we may share with all your Church in the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

36 Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
for your mercy and for your truth's sake. **Amen.**

37 Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for all the benefits you have won for us, for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.

Most merciful redeemer,
friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day. **Amen.**

38 Eternal God,
you have declared in Christ
the completion of your purpose of love.
May we live by faith, walk in hope, and be
renewed in love,
until the world reflects your glory,
and you are all in all.
Even so; come, Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

39 **Then all say the Lord's Prayer.**

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.
Do not bring us to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Bishop ends the service with a BLESSING.

- B** When the service is used at Morning or Evening Prayer, proper psalms and lessons may be chosen from those printed above (sections 5–9), and the sentence (section 1) and collect (section 4) may also be used instead of those of the day.

The service follows this order:

- 1 Morning or Evening Prayer, to the end of the second lesson.
- 2 A sermon may be preached.
- 3 Baptism and Confirmation sections 11–27 (or those parts which are required).
- 4 Morning or Evening Prayer, from the canticle after the second lesson to the end of the service.
- 5 At the end of the service, prayers from sections 31–38 above may be used.

The Baptism of Children

NOTES

- 1 Holy Baptism is normally administered by the parish priest in the course of public worship on Sunday; but it may be administered at other times, and he may delegate its administration to other lawful ministers. Where rubrics indicate that a passage is to be said by ‘the priest’, this must be understood to include any other minister authorized to administer Holy Baptism.
- 2 When children who are old enough to respond are baptized, the parents and godparents answer the questions (sections 46 and 51), and at the discretion of the priest the children may also answer them.
- 3 **The Signing with the Cross** The signing with the cross may take place either at section 47 or at section 54. The sign of the cross may be made in oil blessed for this purpose.
- 4 **The Giving of a Candle** A lighted candle, which may be the paschal candle, may be made ready so that other candles may be lighted from it.
- 5 At the signing with the cross and the giving of a candle, the priest or other minister may address the candidate by name.
- 6 **The People’s Responses** At the signing with the cross it is sufficient if the people join in and say their part (sections 47 and 54) once only, when all have been signed; and if a candle is given to those who have been baptized, it is sufficient if the people join in and say their part (section 55) once only, when all have received a candle.
- 7 This order of service should normally be used at Holy Communion or Morning or Evening Prayer. At other times representatives of the regular congregation should attend the service, so that they may welcome the newly baptized (section 56) and be put in mind of their own baptism.

- 8 **Permitted omissions** Sections with numbers in blue may be omitted.
- 9 **Hymns** If occasion requires, hymns may be sung at points other than those which are indicated in this order.
- 10 **The Administration of Baptism** A threefold administration of water (whether by dipping or pouring) is a very ancient practice of the Church, and is commended as testifying to the faith of the Trinity in which candidates are baptized. Nevertheless, a single administration is also lawful and valid.
- 11 Section 43 may be omitted and either Matthew 28.16–20 or John 3.1–8 shall be read.

The Baptism of Children at Holy Communion

Section numbers refer to Series 3 Holy Communion, but the corresponding sections of Holy Communion Series 1 and 2 Revised may be used in place of these.

Order	Service	Section
Seasonal Sentence	Holy Communion	1
Preparation	Holy Communion	2–6
Ministry of the Word	Holy Communion	7–12
Duties of Parents and Godparents	Baptism	40–41
(Ministry of the Word	Baptism	42–44 optional)
Decision	Baptism	45–48
Baptism	Baptism	49–53
The Welcome	Baptism	54–56

The service then follows the Holy Communion service from section 21 (The Peace).

The Baptism of Children at Morning or Evening Prayer

The service follows this order:

- 1 Morning or Evening Prayer, to the end of the second lesson.
- 2 The Baptism of Children:
The Duties of Parents and Godparents, sections 40–41.
The Ministry of the Word, sections 42–44 (optional).
The Decision, sections 45–48.
The Baptism, sections 49–53.
The Welcome, sections 54–56.
The Prayers, sections 57–59 (optional).
- 3 Morning or Evening Prayer, from the canticle after the second lesson to the end of the service.
- 4 At the end of the service the prayers in The Baptism of Children, sections 57–59, may be said.

When it is appropriate, the service of Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer may be abbreviated.

THE DUTIES OF PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

- 40 The priest says
- Children who are too young to profess the Christian faith are baptized on the understanding that they are brought up as Christians within the family of the Church.
- As they grow up, they need the help and encouragement of that family, so that they learn to be faithful in public worship and private prayer, to live by trust in God, and come to confirmation.
- Parents and godparents, the *children* whom you have brought for baptism *depend* chiefly on you for the help and encouragement *they need*. Are you willing to give it to *them* by your prayers, by your example, and by your teaching?

Parents and godparents
I am willing.

- 41 And if the *child* is old enough to understand, the priest speaks to *him* in these or similar words:
- N*, when you are baptized, you become a *member* of a new family. God takes you for his own *child*, and all Christian people will be your brothers and sisters.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Sections 42, 43, and 44 may be omitted when Baptism is administered at Morning or Evening Prayer or Holy Communion.

- 42 Priest All The Lord is loving to everyone;
and his mercy is over all his works.

43 Priest
God is the creator of all things, and by the birth of children he gives to parents a share in the work and joy of creation. But we who are born of earthly parents need to be born again. For in the Gospel Jesus tells us that 'Unless a man has been born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God'. And so God gives us the way to a second birth, a new creation and life in union with him.

Baptism is the sign and seal of this new birth. In St Matthew's Gospel we read of the risen Christ commanding his followers to make disciples of all nations and to baptize men everywhere; and in the Acts of the Apostles we read of St Peter preaching in these words: 'Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and your children and to all that are afar off, everyone whom the Lord calls to him'.

In obedience to this same command we ourselves were baptized and now bring *these children* to baptism.

44 Priest We thank God therefore for our baptism to life in Christ, and we pray for *these children* (N) and say together

All **Heavenly Father, in your love
you have called us to know you,
led us to trust you,
and bound our life with yours.
Surround *these children* with your love;
protect *them* from evil;
fill *them* with your Holy Spirit;
and receive *them* into the family of
your Church;
that *they* may walk with us in the way
of Christ
and grow in the knowledge of your love.
Amen.**

THE DECISION

45 **The parents and godparents stand, and the priest says to them,**

Those who bring children to be baptized must affirm their allegiance to Christ and their rejection of all that is evil.

It is your duty to bring up *these children* to fight against evil and to follow Christ.

46 Therefore I ask these questions which you must answer for yourselves and for *these children*.

Answer Do you turn to Christ?
I turn to Christ.

Answer Do you repent of your sins?
I repent of my sins.

Answer Do you renounce evil?
I renounce evil.

47 **Either here or at section 54 the priest makes THE SIGN OF THE CROSS on the forehead of each child, saying to each**

I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

After the signing of each or all, he says

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

All **Fight valiantly under the banner of Christ
against sin, the world, and the devil,
and continue his faithful *soldiers* and *servants*
to the end of your lives.**

48 Priest May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All **Amen.**

49 **A HYMN or PSALM may be sung.**

THE BAPTISM

50 The priest stands before the waters of baptism and says

All Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Priest Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ
was baptized in the river Jordan;
we thank you for the gift of water
to cleanse and revive us;
we thank you that through the waters of the
Red Sea, you led your people out of slavery
to freedom in the promised land;
we thank you that through the deep waters
of death you brought your Son, and raised
him to life in triumph.

Bless this water, that your *servants* who are
washed in it may be made one with Christ
in his death and in his resurrection, to
be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Send your Holy Spirit upon *them* to bring
them to new birth in the family of your
Church, and raise *them* with Christ to full
and eternal life.

For all might, majesty, authority, and power
are yours, now and for ever.

All Amen.

51 The priest says to the parents and godparents

You have brought *these children* to baptism.
You must now declare before God and his
Church the Christian faith into which *they*
are to be baptized, and in which you will
help *them* to grow. You must answer for
yourselves and for *these children*.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made the world?

Answer I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus
Christ, who redeemed mankind?

Answer I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?

Answer I believe and trust in him.

52 The priest turns to the congregation and says

All This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

53 The parents and godparents being present with each child, the priest baptizes him. He dips him in the water or pours water on him, addressing him by name.

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

And each one of his sponsors answers

Amen.

54 The priest makes THE SIGN OF THE CROSS on the forehead of each child if he has not already done so. The appropriate words are printed at section 47

55 The priest or other person may give to a parent or godparent for each child a LIGHTED CANDLE, saying to each

Receive this light.

And when a candle has been given to each one, he says

This is to show that you have passed from
darkness to light.

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

THE WELCOME

- 56 **The priest and the congregation, representing the whole Church, welcome the newly baptized.**
Priest God has received you by baptism into his Church.
All **We welcome you into the Lord's Family. We are members together of the body of Christ; we are children of the same heavenly Father, we are inheritors together of the kingdom of God. We welcome you.**

THE PRAYERS

- 57 **The prayers that follow are omitted when Baptism is administered at Holy Communion; and may be omitted when Baptism is administered at Morning or Evening Prayer.**
Priest Lord God our Father, maker of heaven and earth, we thank you that by your Holy Spirit *these children have* been born again into new life, adopted for your own, and received into the fellowship of your Church: grant that *they* may grow in the faith into which *they have* been baptized, that *they* may profess it for *themselves* when *they come* to be confirmed, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *them*.
All **Amen.**
- 58 Priest Heavenly Father, we pray for the parents of *these children*; give them the spirit of wisdom and love, that their *homes* may reflect the joy of your eternal kingdom.
All **Amen.**

- 59 Priest Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptized in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
All **Amen.**
- 60 Priest Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and so in faith and trust we say,
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. Do not bring us to the time of trial but deliver us from evil.**
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.
- 61 Priest The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.
All **Amen.**

PROPERS

Seasonal Sentence

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old order has gone, and a new order has already begun.
2 Corinthians 5.17

Thanksgiving

And now we give you thanks because through baptism we have been buried with Christ so that we may rise with him to the new life.

Postcommunion Sentence

Through faith you are all the children of God in union with Christ Jesus. Baptized into union with him, you have all put on Christ as a garment. *Galatians 3.26-27*

PSALM and LESSONS which may be used at Holy Communion or at Morning or Evening Prayer

Psalm 107.1-9

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord for | he is | good:
for his loving | mercy | is for | ever.
- 2 Let the Lord's re | deemed | say so:
whom he has redeemed from the | hand | of the |
enemy,
- †3 And gathered in from every land
from the east and | from the | west:
from the | north and | from the | south.
- 4 Some went astray in the wilderness and | in the | desert:
and found no | path to · an in | habit · ed | city;
- 5 They were | hungry · and | thirsty:
and their | heart | fainted · with | in them.
- 6 Then they cried to the Lord in | their dis | tress:
and he | took them | out of · their | trouble.

- 7 He led them by the | right | path:
till they | came to · an in | habit · ed | city.
- 8 Let them thank the | Lord · for his | goodness:
and for the wonders that he | does · for the |
children · of | men;
- 9 For he | satisfies · the | thirsty:
and fills the | hungry · with | good | things.

Glory to the Father and | to the | Son:
and | to the | Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be | ginning · is | now:
and shall be for | ever. | A | men.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

Genesis 7.17-23 (or 7.17-8.5) RSV

The flood continued forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters prevailed and increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. And the waters prevailed so mightily upon the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered; the waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, birds, cattle, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm upon the earth, and every man; everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the air; they were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark.

[And the waters prevailed upon the earth a hundred and fifty days. But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided; the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end

of a hundred and fifty days the waters had abated; and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat. And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.]

Exodus 14.19–31 RSV

Then the angel of God who went before the host of Israel moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness; and the night passed without one coming near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down upon the host of the Egyptians, and discomfited the host of the Egyptians, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily; and the Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from before Israel; for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.' So Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its wonted flow when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled into it, and the Lord routed the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not so much as one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore. And Israel saw the great work which the Lord did against the Egyptians, and the people feared the Lord; and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Deuteronomy 30.15–20 RSV

Moses said to the people, 'See, I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you this day, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his ordinances, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you this day, that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land which you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and cleaving to him; for that means life to you and length of days, that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.'

2 Kings 5.1–15a NEB

Naaman, commander of the king of Aram's army, was a great man highly esteemed by his master, because by his means the Lord had given victory to Aram; but he was a leper. On one of their raids the Aramaeans brought back as a captive from the land of Israel a little girl, who became servant to Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, 'If only my master could meet the prophet who lives in Samaria, he would get rid of the disease for him.' Naaman went in and reported to his master word for word what the girl from the land of Israel had said. 'Very well, you may go,' said the king of Aram, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.' So Naaman went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six

thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. He delivered the letter to the king of Israel, which read thus 'This letter is to inform you that I am sending to you my servant Naaman, and I beg you to rid him of his disease.' When the king of Israel read the letter, he rent his clothes and said, 'Am I a god to kill and make alive, that this fellow sends to me to cure a man of his disease? Surely you must see that he is picking a quarrel with me.' When Elisha, the man of God, heard how the king of Israel had rent his clothes, he sent to him saying, 'Why did you rend your clothes? Let the man come to me, and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.' So Naaman came with his horse and chariots and stood at the entrance to Elisha's house. Elisha sent out a messenger to say to him, 'If you will go and wash seven times in the Jordan, your flesh will be restored and you will be clean.' Naaman was furious and went away, saying, 'I thought he would at least have come out and stood, and invoked the Lord his God by name, waved his hand over the place and so rid me of the disease. Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Can I not wash in them and be clean?' So he turned and went off in a rage. But his servants came up to him and said, 'If the prophet had bidden you do something difficult, would you not do it? How much more then, if he tells you to wash and be clean?' So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored as a little child's, and he was clean.

Then he and his retinue went back to the man of God and stood before him; and he said, 'Now I know that there is no god anywhere on earth except in Israel.'

Isaiah 44.1-5 NEB

Hear me now, Jacob my servant,
hear me, my chosen Israel.
Thus says the Lord your maker,
your helper, who fashioned you from birth:
have no fear, Jacob my servant,
Jeshurun whom I have chosen,
for I will pour down rain on a thirsty land,

showers on the dry ground.

I will pour out my spirit on your offspring
and my blessing on your children.

They shall spring up like a green tamarisk,
like poplars by a flowing stream.

This man shall say, 'I am the Lord's man',
that one shall call himself a son of Jacob,
another shall write the Lord's name on his hand
and shall add the name of Israel to his own.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

Romans 6.3-11 NEB

Have you forgotten that when we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus we were baptized into his death? By baptism we were buried with him, and lay dead, in order that, as Christ was raised from the dead in the splendour of the Father, so also we might set our feet upon the new path of life.

For if we have become incorporate with him in a death like his, we shall also be one with him in a resurrection like his. We know that the man we once were has been crucified with Christ, for the destruction of the sinful self, so that we may no longer be the slaves of sin, since a dead man is no longer answerable for his sin. But if we thus died with Christ, we believe that we shall also come to life with him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, is never to die again: he is no longer under the dominion of death. For in dying as he died, he died to sin, once for all, and in living as he lives, he lives to God. In the same way you must regard yourselves as dead to sin and alive to God, in union with Christ Jesus.

Romans 8.11-17 RSV

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you.

So then, brethren, we are debtors not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – for if you live according to the flesh

you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry 'Abba! Father!' it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Galatians 5.16-25 RSV

Walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would. But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are plain: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Jesus Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

1 Peter 2.4-10 NEB

Come to Christ, our living Stone – the stone rejected by men but choice and precious in the sight of God. Come, and let yourselves be built, as living stones, into a spiritual temple; become a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands written:

'I lay in Zion a choice corner-stone of great worth. The man who has faith in it will not be put to shame.'

The great worth of which it speaks is for you who have faith. For those who have no faith, the stone which the builders rejected has become not only the corner-stone, but

also 'a stone to trip over, a rock to stumble against'. They fall when they disbelieve the Word. Such was their appointed lot!

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, and a people claimed by God for his own, to proclaim the triumphs of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. You are now the people of God, who once were not his people; outside his mercy once, you have now received his mercy.

GOSPELS

Matthew 28.16-20 JB

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

Mark 1.1-11 NEB

Here begins the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. In the prophet Isaiah it stands written: 'Here is my herald whom I send on ahead of you, and he will prepare your way. A voice crying aloud in the wilderness, "Prepare a way for the Lord; clear a straight path for him." ' And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness proclaiming a baptism in token of repentance, for the forgiveness of sins; and they flocked to him from the whole Judaeon country-side and the city of Jerusalem, and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

John was dressed in a rough coat of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he fed on locusts and wild honey. His proclamation ran: 'After me comes one who is mightier than I. I am not fit to unfasten his shoes. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

It happened at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. At the moment when he came up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice spoke from heaven: 'Thou art my Son, my Beloved; on thee my favour rests.'

John 3.1-8 NEB

There was one of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish Council, who came to Jesus by night. 'Rabbi,' he said, 'we know that you are a teacher sent by God; no one could perform these signs of yours unless God were with him.' Jesus answered, 'In truth, in very truth I tell you, unless a man has been born over again he cannot see the kingdom of God.' 'But how is it possible', said Nicodemus, 'for a man to be born when he is old? Can he enter his mother's womb a second time and be born?' Jesus answered, 'In truth I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born from water and spirit. Flesh can give birth only to flesh; it is spirit that gives birth to spirit. You ought not to be astonished, then, when I tell you that you must be born over again. The wind blows where it wills; you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from, or where it is going. So with everyone who is born from spirit.'

The Confirmation of those already baptized

NOTES

- 1 A sermon may be preached after the last lesson in the Ministry of the Word, or at some other point in the service at the Bishop's discretion.
- 2 **Anointing with Oil** At section 78 the Bishop may anoint candidates with oil which he has previously blessed for this purpose.
- 3 Where it is prescribed that anything is to be said or done by the Bishop, he may delegate it to other ministers; but only the Bishop is to confirm (sections 75-79).
- 4 **Permitted omissions** Sections with numbers in blue may be omitted.
- 5 **Lessons** The Bishop may direct other lessons to be read than those appointed in this order, subject to the provisions of the *Rules to Order the Service*.
- 6 At the discretion of the Bishop, the renewal of baptismal vows by members of the congregation may take place at section 72 instead of after section 80.
- 7 **Other material** The 1662 or Series 2 version of the Lord's Prayer may be said in place of that printed.
- 8 **Hymns** Various points are indicated for the singing of hymns; but if occasion requires they may be sung elsewhere.

Confirmation with Holy Communion

THE PREPARATION

- 62 **At the entry of the ministers this, or another appropriate SENTENCE, may be used:**
The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation. *Ps. 118.14*
and a hymn, a canticle, or a psalm may be sung.
- 63 Bishop The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**
- 64 **If the PRAYERS OF PENITENCE (Holy Communion Series 3, sections 17–20) are to be used, they follow here.**
- 65 Bishop Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by that same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- 66 Sit
THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON
If a lesson from the Old Testament is to be read, one of the following may be chosen
- Josh. 24.14–24 Jer. 31.31–34 Ezek. 36.25a, 26–28

At the end the reader may say

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept.

- 67 A PSALM or a HYMN may be sung.

- 68 **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**
If a New Testament Lesson is to be read, one of the following may be chosen

1 Cor.12.12–13, Gal.5.16–25, 1 Pet.2.4–10

At the end the reader may say

All This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept.

- 69 A CANTICLE or a HYMN may be sung.

- 70 **Stand**
THE GOSPEL. When it is announced

All **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

One of the following may be chosen

Matt. 16.24–27, Mark 1.14–20, Luke 24.45–end,
John 14.15–18

At the end the reader may say

All This is the Gospel of Christ.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

Silence may be kept.

- 71 THE SERMON may be preached.

- 72 A HYMN may be sung.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

- 73 **The candidates stand before the Bishop; he says**
You have come here to be confirmed. You stand in the presence of God and his Church. With your own mouth and from your own heart you must declare your allegiance to Christ and your rejection of all that is evil. Therefore I ask these questions.
- Answer** Do you turn to Christ?
I turn to Christ.
- Answer** Do you repent of your sins?
I repent of my sins.
- Answer** Do you renounce evil?
I renounce evil.
- 74 **Then the Bishop says**
You must now declare before God and his Church that you accept the Christian faith into which you were baptized, and in which you will live and grow.
- Answer** Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?
I believe and trust in him.
- Answer** Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind?
I believe and trust in him.
- Answer** Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?
I believe and trust in him.
- 75 **The Bishop turns to the congregation and says**
This is the faith of the Church.
- All** **This is our faith.**
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

THE CONFIRMATION

- 76 **The Bishop stands before those to be confirmed and says**
All Our help is in the name of the Lord
who has made heaven and earth,
- All** Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and for ever. Amen
- 77 **The Bishop stretches out his hands towards them and says**
Almighty and everliving God,
you have given *your servants* new birth
in baptism by water and the Spirit,
and have forgiven *them* all their sins.
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon *them*:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
and let *their* delight be in the fear of the Lord.
- All** **Amen.**
- 78 **The Bishop lays his hand on the head of each candidate, saying**
Confirm, O Lord, your servant *N* with your Holy Spirit.
- and each one answers**
Amen.
- 79 **After confirmation, the Bishop invites the people to join with him and say**
Defend, O Lord, *your servants* with your
heavenly grace,
that *they* may continue yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit
more and more,
until *they come* to your everlasting
kingdom. Amen.

80 If some members of the congregation are now to make a renewal of their baptismal vows, sections 90–93 may be used here.

THE PEACE

81 The Bishop continues the Holy Communion with the Peace (Holy Communion Series 3, sections 21–22).

82 The service proceeds according to that order, except as shown below.

83 The Bishop says both THE BLESSING and The DISMISSAL (Holy Communion, sections 42–43).

PROPER S

Thanksgiving

And now we give you thanks because by the Holy Spirit you lead us into all truth and give us power to preach your gospel to the nations, and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Postcommunion Sentence

God who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. *Romans 8.11*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

Joshua 24.14–24 NEB

Joshua said to the people, 'Hold the Lord in awe then, and worship him in loyalty and truth. Banish the gods whom your fathers worshipped beside the Euphrates and in Egypt, and worship the Lord. But if it does not please you to worship the Lord, choose here and now whom you will

worship: the gods whom your forefathers worshipped beside the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living. But I and my family, we will worship the Lord.' The people answered, 'God forbid that we should forsake the Lord to worship other gods, for it was the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from Egypt, that land of slavery; it was he who displayed those great signs before our eyes and guarded us on all our wanderings among the many peoples through whose lands we passed. The Lord drove out before us the Amorites and all the peoples who lived in that country. We too will worship the Lord; he is our God.' Joshua answered the people, 'You cannot worship the Lord. He is a holy God, a jealous God, and he will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you forsake the Lord and worship foreign gods, he will turn and bring adversity upon you and, although he once brought you prosperity, he will make an end of you.' The people said to Joshua, 'No; we will worship the Lord.' He said to them, 'You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord and will worship him.' 'Yes,' they answered, 'we are witnesses.' He said to them, 'Then here and now banish the foreign gods that are among you, and turn your hearts to the Lord the God of Israel.' The people said to Joshua, 'The Lord our God we will worship and his voice we will obey.'

Jeremiah 31.31–34 NEB

The time is coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with Israel and Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand and led them out of Egypt. Although they broke my covenant, I was patient with them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant which I will make with Israel after those days, says the Lord; I will set my law within them and write it on their hearts; I will become their God and they shall become my people. No longer need they teach one another to know the Lord; all of them, high and low alike, shall know me, says the Lord, for I will forgive their wrongdoing and remember their sin no more.

Ezekiel 36.25a, 26–28 NEB

The Lord God says, I will sprinkle clean water over you, and you shall be cleansed from all that defiles you. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh. I will my spirit into you and make you conform to my statutes, keep my laws and live by them. You shall live in the land which I gave to your ancestors; you shall become my people, and I will become your God.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS

1 Corinthians 12.12–13 NEB

Christ is like a single body with its many limbs and organs, which, many as they are, together make up one body. For indeed we were all brought into one body by baptism, in the one Spirit, whether we are Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free men, and that one Holy Spirit was poured out for all of us to drink.

Galatians 5.16–25 RSV

Walk by the Spirit, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you would. But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are plain: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

1 Peter 2.4–10 NEB

Come to Christ, our living Stone – the stone rejected by men but choice and precious in the sight of God. Come, and let yourselves be built, as living stones, into a spiritual temple; become a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands written:

‘I lay in Zion a choice corner-stone of great worth. The man who has faith in it will not be put to shame.’

The great worth of which it speaks is for you who have faith. For those who have no faith, the stone which the builders rejected has become not only the corner-stone, but also ‘a stone to trip over, a rock to stumble against’. They fall when they disbelieve the Word. Such was their appointed lot!

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, and a people claimed by God for his own, to proclaim the triumphs of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. You are now the people of God, who once were not his people; outside his mercy once, you have now received his mercy.

GOSPELS

Matthew 16.24–27 JB

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?’

For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.’

Mark 1.14–20 NEB

After John had been arrested, Jesus came into Galilee proclaiming the Gospel of God: 'The time has come; the kingdom of God is upon you; repent, and believe the Gospel.'

Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee when he saw Simon and his brother Andrew on the lake at work with a casting-net; for they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, 'Come with me, and I will make you fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little further he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in the boat overhauling their nets. He called them; and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, they went off to follow him.

Luke 24.45–end JB

Jesus opened the disciples' minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this. And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.'

John 14.15–18 JB

Jesus said to his disciples,
'If you love me you will keep my commandments.
I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,
that Spirit of truth
whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.
I will not leave you orphans;
I will come back to you.'

Confirmation without Holy Communion

A The service follows the order to be used at Holy Communion (sections 62–80 above). One, two, or three lessons may be read as the Bishop directs. After section 80, the Bishop says one or more of these prayers

84 For those who have now been confirmed

Heavenly Father, we pray for your *servants* upon whom we have now laid our hands, after the example of the apostles, to assure *them* by this sign of your favour towards *them*. May your fatherly hand ever be over *them*, your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*. Strengthen *them* continually with the Body and Blood of your Son, and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your word that in the end *they* may obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

85 For all Christian people

Almighty Father, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptized in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

86 For the Church's witness

Almighty God, whose Holy Spirit equips the Church with a rich variety of gifts; grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love. Make us ready to live his gospel and eager to do his will, that we may share with all your Church in the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

87 Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
for your mercy and for your truth's sake. Amen.

88 Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you
for all the benefits you have won for us,
for all the pains and insults you have borne
for us.
Most merciful redeemer,
friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day. Amen.

89 Eternal God,
you have declared in Christ
the completion of your purpose of love.
May we live by faith, walk in hope, and be
renewed in love,
until the world reflects your glory,
and you are all in all.
Even so; come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

90 Then all say the LORD'S PRAYER.

The Bishop ends the service with a BLESSING.

B When the service is used at Morning or Evening Prayer, proper lessons may be chosen from those printed above (sections 66–69), and the sentence (section 62) and collect (section 65) may also be used instead of those of the day.

The service follows this order:

- 1 Morning or Evening Prayer, to the end of the second lesson.
- 2 A sermon may be preached.
- 3 Confirmation, sections 73–80.
- 4 Morning or Evening Prayer, from the canticle after the second lesson to the end of the service.
- 5 At the end of the service, prayers from sections 84–89 above may be used.

PROPER PSALMS
which may be used at Holy Communion or at Morning or
Evening Prayer

18.32–37; 25.1–9; 27.1–7; 34.1–8; 97.9–12; 107.1–9

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows on various occasions

NOTES

- 1 This order of service may be used at Easter, at New Year, and on other suitable occasions, and sections 91–94 may be used in conjunction with Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion after section 10 or at section 27, or with Confirmation and Holy Communion after section 72 or at section 80.
- 2 When this order is used at Holy Communion, it may be used after the Sermon, and the Creed may be omitted. The Prayers of Intercession and of Penitence may be omitted.
- 3 When this order is used at Morning or Evening Prayer, it may be used after a sermon, either after the second lesson or at the end of the service.
- 4 The collect, psalms, and lessons of the service of Baptism and Confirmation may be used instead of those appointed for the day, subject to the provisions of the *Rules to Order the Service*.

- 91 **At Easter the minister says**
As we celebrate again the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

- 92 **On other occasions the minister says**
In our baptism we died with Christ and were buried with him, so that we might rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church. Today we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

- 93 Therefore I ask these questions

Answer Do you turn to Christ?
I turn to Christ.

Answer Do you repent of your sins?
I repent of my sins.

Answer Do you renounce evil?
I renounce evil.

- 94 **The minister says**

And now I ask you to make the profession of Christian faith into which you were baptized, and in which you live and grow.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

Answer **I believe and trust in him.**
Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind?

Answer **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives light to the people of God?
Answer I believe and trust in him.

99

95 **The minister says**

This is the faith of the Church.
All This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

96 **The minister says one or more of the following prayers:**

Almighty God, we thank you for our
fellowship in the household of faith with all
those who have been baptized in your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us
ready for that day when the whole creation
shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour
Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

100

97 Almighty God, whose Holy Spirit equips the
Church with a rich variety of gifts; grant that
we may use them to bear witness to Christ by
lives built on faith and love. Make us ready
to live his Gospel and eager to do his will,
that we may share with all your Church in the
joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. **Amen.**

98 **Lord, make us instruments of your peace.**
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, let there be pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;
for your mercy and for your truth's sake. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, we thank you
for all the benefits you have won for us,
for all the pains and insults you have borne
for us.
Most merciful redeemer,
friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day. **Amen.**

Eternal God,
you have declared in Christ
the completion of your purpose of love.
May we live by faith, walk in hope, and be
renewed in love,
until the world reflects your glory,
and you are all in all.
Even so; come, Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

Conditional Baptism

- 101 If it is not certain that a person was baptized with water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, then the usual service of baptism is used, but the form of words at the baptism (sections 19, 53) shall be

N, if you have not already been baptized, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Emergency Baptism

- 102 The parents are responsible for requesting emergency baptism for an infant, and they should be assured that questions of ultimate salvation or of the provision of a Christian funeral for an infant who dies do not depend upon whether or not *he* had been baptized.
- 103 In an emergency a lay person may be the minister of baptism, and should subsequently inform those who have the pastoral responsibility for the person so baptized.
- 104 The minister, having asked the name of the person to be baptized, pours water on *him*, saying

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

He then says at least the Lord's Prayer and ends with this blessing:

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you, this day and evermore.

- 105 When through the absence of parents, or for some other reason, there is uncertainty as to the name of the person, the baptism can be properly administered without the use of the name (so long as the identity of the person baptized can be duly recorded).
- 106 If he lives, a person so baptized shall afterwards come to church, or be brought to church, and the baptism service is said except that sections 16 and 19 (50 and 53) are omitted and at section 17 (51) the priest says

You must now declare before God and his Church the Christian faith into which you have been baptized, and in which you will live and grow.

Where children are concerned, he says to the parents and godparents

You must now declare before God and his Church the Christian faith into which *this child* has been baptized, and in which you will help *him* to grow. You must answer for yourselves and for *this child*.

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These services have been authorized for use from 3 June 1979 until 31 October 1980, pursuant to Canon B 2 of the Canons of the Church of England. Canon B 3 provides that decisions as to which of the authorized services are to be used shall, in the case of occasional offices (other than Confirmation) be made by the minister conducting the service, subject to the right of any of the persons concerned to object beforehand to its use.

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