



HOLY BAPTISM

1. *While a baptismal hymn is sung, the candidates, sponsors, and parents gather at the font.*
2. *The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.*

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

3. *A sponsor for each candidate, in turn, presents the candidate with these or similar words:*

I present _____ name _____ to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

4. *The minister addresses those candidates who are able to answer for themselves:*

_____ name _____, do you desire to be baptized?

I do.

5. *The minister addresses the sponsors and parents.*

6. *When only young children are baptized, the minister says:*

In Christian love you have presented *these children* for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring *them* to the services of God's house, and teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As *they grow* in years, you should place in *their* hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for *their* instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of *their* Baptism and in communion with the Church, *they* may lead *godly lives* until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

I do.

OR

7. *When older children and adults are baptized also, the minister says:*

P In Christian love you have presented *these people* for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully care for *them* and help *them* in every way as God gives you opportunity, that *they* may bear witness to the faith we profess, and that, living in the covenant of *their* Baptism and in communion with the Church, *they* may lead *godly lives* until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

R I do.

Stand

8. *When baptisms are celebrated within the Holy Communion, The Prayers may be said at this time, with special reference to those baptized.*

After each portion of the prayers:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

9. *The minister begins the thanksgiving.*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that *those who are* here baptized may be given

new life. Wash away the sin of *all those who are* cleansed by this water and bring *them* forth as *inheritors* of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. (245)

C Amen

10. The minister addresses the baptismal group and the congregation.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

R I do.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

* Or, He descended to the dead.

11. *The minister baptizes each candidate.*

P _____ name _____, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

The minister pours water on the candidate's head.

P and of the Son,

The minister pours water on the candidate's head a second time.

P and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The minister pours water on the candidate's head a third time.

OR **P** _____ name _____ is baptized in the name of the Father,

The minister pours water on the candidate's head.

P and of the Son,

The minister pours water on the candidate's head a second time.

P and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The minister pours water on the candidate's head a third time.

Sit

12. *A psalm or hymn may be sung as the minister and the baptismal group go before the altar.*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

13. *Those who have been baptized kneel. Sponsors or parents holding young children stand. The minister lays both hands on the head of each of the baptized and prays for the Holy Spirit:*

P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon _____ name _____: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence. (246)

C Amen

14. *The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:*

P _____ name _____, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

The sponsor or the baptized responds: "Amen."

15. *After all have received the sign of the cross, they stand.*

16. *A lighted candle may be given to each of the baptized (to the sponsor of a young child) by a representative of the congregation who says:*

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

17. When small children are baptized, this prayer may be said.

P O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the *fathers and mothers of these children*. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their *children*. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their *children* the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (247)

C Amen

Stand

18. The ministers and the baptismal group turn toward the congregation; a representative of the congregation says:

Through Baptism God has made *these new sisters and brothers members* of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.

19. The ministers may exchange the peace with the baptized, with their sponsors and parents, and with the congregation:

Peace be with you.

R Peace be with you.

20. All return to their places.

21. The service continues with the Offering.



SERVICE OF THE WORD

Stand

1. *A HYMN is sung.*
2. *The appropriate DIALOG is read. It may be said responsively by the leader and the congregation or antiphonally by two sections of the congregation.*

Holy is the Lord, the Almighty.

He was, he is, and he is to come.

He is worthy of glory and honor and power.

He created all things. By his will they came to be.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain;

worthy to take the scroll and break its seals.

By his blood he purchased for God

people of every race and tongue, of every folk and nation.

Christ made of them a kingdom

and priests to serve our God.

And they shall reign on earth forever.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

OR

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,

for in your wisdom you have formed us.

You feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

We bless you and praise your name forever.

You set free those who are bound.

We bless you and praise your name forever.

You raise up those whose courage falters.

We bless you and praise your name forever.

You provide for our every need.

Accept our grateful praises.

You have called us from all peoples.

We rejoice and bless your name forever.

You bless your people with peace.

We bless you and praise your loving grace.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,
for in your wisdom you have formed us.

OR

ADVENT

Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say—

a voice that speaks for peace.

Peace for all people and for his friends

and those who turn to him in their hearts.

His help is near for those who fear him,

and his glory will live in our land.

Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

OR

LENT

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of all mercies, and the God of all consolation.**

Seek the Lord while he may be found.

Call upon him while he is near.

Let the wicked abandon their ways,

and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the Lord for mercy,

to our God, who is generous in forgiving.

All you who are thirsty, come to the water.

You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk.

**Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of all mercies, and the God of all consolation.**

L God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

3. An *OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE* (see canticles 14, 15, 16, 18, 19) appropriate to the season or occasion is sung.

4. The *PRAYER OF THE DAY* is said; the salutation may precede it.

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray. . . .

C Amen

Sit

5. The *FIRST LESSON* is announced and read.

L The First Lesson is from the _____ chapter of _____.

6. After the lesson the reader may say: "Here ends the reading."

7. A psalm, hymn, or anthem is sung.

*Or, He descended to the dead.

8. The *SECOND LESSON* is announced and read.

L The *Second Lesson* is from the _____ chapter of _____.

9. After the lesson the reader may say: "Here ends the reading."

10. A response follows the *Second Lesson*.

11. Silence for meditation.

12. The *SERMON* follows the silence.

Stand

13. A *HYMN* is sung.

Sit

14. An *OFFERING* may be received.

15. *THE PRAYERS* follow. The leader may use the prayer below, the form for prayer in the *Holy Communion* (204) [65], one of the forms of *Responsive Prayer* (79) [161], one of the *litanies* (65) [148] or (86) [168], a series of prayers, or any appropriate prayer. Opportunity for prayers from the congregation may be provided.

Stand

L Let us pray.

L Almighty and everlasting God, you are worthy to be held in reverence by all the mortal race. We give you thanks for the innumerable blessings which, despite our unworthiness, you have showered upon us.

We praise you especially that you have preserved for us in their purity your saving Word and the sacred ordinances of your house. Grant and preserve to your Church throughout the world purity of doctrine and faithful pastors who shall preach your Word with power, and help all who hear rightly to understand and firmly to believe your Word of truth.

Protect and defend your people in time of tribulation and danger, that we, in communion with your Church and in unity with all Christian people, may fight the good fight of faith and in the end receive the fullness of salvation.

Upon all the nations of the earth bestow your grace. Especially we ask you to bless our land and all its inhabitants and all who are in authority. Cause your glory to dwell among us, and let mercy and truth, justice and peace everywhere prevail. We commend to your care all our schools, that virtue and useful knowledge may be nourished and the wholesome fruits of life may abound.

In your mercy defend us from all calamities by fire and water, from war and

pestilence, from scarcity and famine. Protect and prosper all who labor, and cause all useful arts to flourish among us. Show yourself to be the helper of the sick and needy, the comforter of the forsaken and distressed.

Accept, we pray, our bodies and souls, our hearts and minds, our talents and powers, together with these gifts, as our offering of praise.

Special supplications, intercessions, and thanksgivings.

And as we are strangers and pilgrims on earth, help us to prepare for the world to come, doing the work which you have given us to do while it is day, before that night comes when no one can work. And, when our last hour shall come, support us by your power and receive us into your everlasting kingdom, where, with your Son our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, God forever.

C Amen

C 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen

OR **C** 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,
forever and ever. Amen

16. *A NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE (see canticles 13, 17, 20, 21) appropriate to the season or occasion is sung.*

17. *The BENEDICTION is said; a hymn may follow.*

L The Lord bless us and keep us.
The Lord make his face shine on us
and be gracious to us.
The Lord look upon us with favor
and give us peace.

C Amen



CORPORATE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Stand

1. *The minister leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father, and of the **✝** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

2. *The minister may announce the occasion for the service and offer any necessary guidance.*

3. *A HYMN is sung.*

Kneel/sit

4. *The minister says one of the following or another appropriate prayer.*

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (236)

C Amen

OR

P Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may attend to your Word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. (271)

C Amen

Sit

5. *PSALM 51 or another appropriate psalm is sung or said, followed by:*

C Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

6. *One or more LESSONS are read. A reading from the Gospels is normally included.*

7. *A SERMON or informal address may follow. In place of the sermon, the minister or another leader may engage those present in mutual conversation and consolation. Silence for recollection and meditation follows.*

8. *The prayer of confession or another prayer prepared for the occasion is said.*

P Let us [kneel and] make confession to God.

Kneel/sit

C Almighty God, merciful Father:

I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you
all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you
and for which I justly deserve your punishment.

But I am sorry for them, and repent of them,
and pray for your boundless mercy.

For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ,
be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being;
forgive my sins,
give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life,
and bring me to life everlasting. Amen

9. *The minister stands and addresses the congregation:*

P Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

10. *Those in the congregation may come forward and kneel before the altar. The minister, laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each in turn:*

P In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

R Amen

Stand

11. *The HYMN OF PRAISE is sung when all have returned to their places.*

12. THE PRAYERS are said. One of the forms of Responsive Prayer (79[161]), one of the litanies (65[148] or 86[168]), or other appropriate prayers may replace the following.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Kneel/sit

P O God, our Father, by the cross of your Son you reconciled the world to yourself, enabling us to live in love and harmony. We thank and praise you for the forgiveness of sins and the precious gift of peace. Help us to forgive each other and to establish justice and concord throughout the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. (272)

C Amen

The Prayer of the Day and other prayers may be said and, after them, this prayer:

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever. (255)

C Amen

C 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen

OR **C** 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,
forever and ever. Amen

Stand

13. *The minister blesses the congregation.*

P Almighty God, Father, **✠** Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

14. *The minister dismisses the congregation.*

P The Lord has made you free. Go in peace.

C Thanks be to God.





INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

1. The confession made by a penitent is protected from disclosure. The pastor is obligated to respect at all times the confidential nature of a confession.

2. The pastor greets the penitent. When the penitent has knelt, the pastor begins:

P Are you prepared to make your confession?

R I am.

The pastor and penitent say the psalm together.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;

in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness,

and cleanse me from my sin. (Ps. 51:16-18, 1-2)

P You have come to make confession before God. In Christ you are free to confess before me, a pastor in his Church, the sins of which you are aware and the sins which trouble you.

R I confess before God that I am guilty of many sins.

Especially I confess before you that . . .

3. The penitent confesses those sins which are known and those which disturb or grieve him/her:

For all this I am sorry and I pray for forgiveness. I want to do better.

4. The pastor may then engage the penitent in pastoral conversation, offering admonition and comfort from the Holy Scriptures. Then they say together:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;

in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit. (Ps. 51:1, 11-13)

5. The pastor stands and faces the penitent or remains seated and turns toward the penitent.

P Do you believe that the word of forgiveness I speak to you comes from God himself?

R Yes, I believe.

6. The pastor lays both hands on the head of the penitent.

P God is merciful and blesses you. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R Amen

7. The penitent may pray silently in thanksgiving, or may pray together with the pastor:

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.
As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him. (Ps. 103:8-13)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

P Blessed are those whose sins have been forgiven,
whose evil deeds have been forgotten.

Rejoice in the Lord, and go in peace.

8. The penitent stands and may exchange the peace with the pastor.



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

- 1. Three services, related to the Baptism of the candidates, are presented as one.*
- 2. A hymn is sung as the candidates gather before the congregation.*

CONFIRMATION

3. Confirmation marks the completion of the congregation's program of confirmation ministry, a period of instruction in the Christian faith as confessed in the teachings of the Lutheran Church. Those who have completed this program were made members of the Church in Baptism. Confirmation includes a public profession of the faith into which the candidates were baptized, thus underscoring God's action in their Baptism.

- 4. A representative of the congregation presents the candidates to the minister:*

These persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism.

- 5. Their names are read.*

☐ Dear friends, we rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

6. Christians from other denominations become members of the Lutheran Church through reception into the local congregation. In Baptism they were made Christians; now they become members of the Lutheran Church.

- 7. A representative of the congregation presents the candidates to the minister:*

These persons have come to us from *other churches*, and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism.

- 8. Their names are read.*

☐ Dear friends, we rejoice to receive you, members of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, into our fellowship in the Gospel.

RESTORATION TO MEMBERSHIP

9. Baptized persons who desire again to participate actively in the life of the Church are restored to membership through affirmation of their Baptism.

10. A representative of the congregation presents the candidates to the minister:

These persons desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism as a sign of their renewed participation in the life and work of the Church of Christ.

11. Their names are read.

P Dear friends, we rejoice that you have returned to the household of God to claim again the eternal inheritance which is your birthright in Holy Baptism.

12. The minister addresses those who have been presented.

P Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been [nourished at his holy table and] called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

R I do.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

R I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

R I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

R I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

*Or, He descended to the dead.

Stand

13. THE PRAYERS are said.

A Let us pray for those who are affirming their Baptism, and for all the baptized everywhere:

That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Other prayers may be added.

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (238)

C Amen

Sit

14. The minister addresses those making affirmation.

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear his Word and share in his supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person answers in turn.

R I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P Let us pray.

15. Those making affirmation kneel. A brief silence is kept so that prayer may be made for them.

P Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these *men and women* your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. (274)

G Amen

FOR CONFIRMATION ONLY

16. The presiding minister lays both hands on the head of each person:

P Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in _____^{name} the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm *his/her* faith, guide *his/her* life, empower *him/her* in *his/her* serving, give *him/her* patience in suffering, and bring *him/her* to everlasting life. (275)

Each person answers: "Amen"

17. They stand. The presiding minister exchanges the peace with each of them. They exchange the peace with one another and other members of the congregation:

Peace be with you. **EV** Peace be with you.

18. All return to their places. The service continues with the Offering.



MARRIAGE

Stand

1. The bride, groom, and wedding party stand in front of the minister. The parents may stand behind the couple.

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

A Let us pray.

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, as you gladdened the wedding at Cana in Galilee by the presence of your Son, so by his presence now bring your joy to this wedding. Look in favor upon _____ name _____ and _____ name _____ and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end. (162)

C Amen

Sit

2. One or more lessons from the Bible may be read. An address may follow. A hymn may be sung.

A The Lord God in his goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come.

Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of the family can become a burden.

But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with his abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

P _____ name _____ and _____ name _____, if it is your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring, with your promises bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

Stand

3. *The bride and groom face each other and join hands. Each, in turn, promises faithfulness to the other in these or similar words:*

I take you, _____ name _____,
to be my *wife/husband* from this day forward,
to join with you and share all that is to come,
and I promise to be faithful to you
until death parts us.

4. *The bride and groom exchange rings with these words:*

I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

5. *The bride and groom join hands, and the minister announces their marriage by saying:*

P _____ name _____ and _____ name _____, by their promises before God and in the presence of this congregation, have bound themselves to one another as husband and wife.

G Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

P Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

G Amen

Sit

6. *The bride and groom kneel.*

P The Lord God, who created our first parents and established them in marriage, establish and sustain you, that you may find delight in each other and grow in holy love until your life's end.

G Amen

7. *The parents may add their blessing with these or similar words; the wedding party may join them.*

May you dwell in God's presence forever; may true and constant love preserve you.

8. *The bride and groom stand.*

Stand

A Let us bless God for all the gifts in which we rejoice today.

P Lord God, constant in mercy, great in faithfulness: With high praise we recall your acts of unfailing love for the human family, for the house of Israel, and for your people the Church.

We bless you for the joy which your servants, _____ name _____ and _____ name _____, have found in each other, and pray that you give to us such a sense of your constant love that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you, whose work alone holds true and endures forever. (276)

G Amen

A Let us pray for _____ name _____ and _____ name _____ in their life together.

P Faithful Lord, source of love, pour down your grace upon _____ name _____ and _____ name _____, that they may fulfill the vows they have made this day and reflect your steadfast love in their life-long faithfulness to each other. As members with them of the body of Christ, use us to support their life together; and from your great store of strength give them power and patience, affection and understanding, courage, and love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world, that they may continue together in mutual growth according to your will in Jesus Christ our Lord. (277)

C Amen

Other intercessions may be offered.

A Let us pray for all families throughout the world.

P Gracious Father, you bless the family and renew your people. Enrich husbands and wives, parents and children more and more with your grace, that, strengthening and supporting each other, they may serve those in need and be a sign of the fulfillment of your perfect kingdom, where, with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God through all ages of ages. (278)

C Amen

9. *When Holy Communion is celebrated, the service continues with the Peace.*

10. *When there is no Communion, the service continues with the Lord's Prayer.*

C 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen

OR **C** 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,
forever and ever. Amen

P Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you in his light and truth and love now and forever.

C Amen



BURIAL OF THE DEAD

-
- 1. This rite may be used as a memorial service by omitting those portions indicated by the red line in the left margin.*
 - 2. The ceremonies or tributes of social or fraternal societies have no place within the service of the Church.*

At the Entrance to the Church

- 3. The ministers meet the coffin, the pallbearers, and the bereaved at the entrance to the church.*

P Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

C Thanks be to God.

- 4. A pall may be placed upon the coffin by the pallbearers or other assisting ministers, and the following may be said.*

P When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Procession

Stand

5. *The procession forms and enters the church, the ministers preceding the coffin.*
6. *A psalm, hymn, or appropriate verse may be sung as the procession goes to the front of the church.*

The Liturgy of the Word

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

7. *One of the following prayers is said.*

P O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our *brother/sister*, _____^{name}_____. We thank you for giving *him/her* to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (279)

C Amen

OR

P Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (280)

C Amen

OR

P Almighty God, those who die in the Lord still live with you in joy and blessedness. We give you heartfelt thanks for the grace you have bestowed upon your servants who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors. May we, with all who have died in the true faith, have perfect fulfillment and joy in your eternal and everlasting glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (281)

C Amen

OR

P O God, your days are without end and your mercies cannot be counted. Make us aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life, and let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life, so that, when we shall have served you in our generation, we may be gathered to our ancestors, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the communion of your Church, in the confidence of a certain faith, in the comfort of a holy hope, in favor with you, our God, and in peace with all humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (282)

C Amen

OR

AT THE BURIAL OF A CHILD

P O God our Father, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Give us grace, we pray, that we may entrust _____ name _____ to your never-failing care and love, and bring us all to your heavenly kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (283)

C Amen

Sit

8. One or two LESSONS are read. A psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung between the first and second readings.

9. The appropriate VERSE may be sung:

C Alleluia. Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead; to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen. Alleluia.

OR

LENT

C If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him; if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with him.

Stand

10. The GOSPEL is read.

Sit

11. The SERMON follows the reading of the Gospel.

Stand

12. A HYMN is sung.

13. The CREED may be said.

P God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

14. The PRAYERS are said. Other appropriate prayers may be used instead.

A Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole Church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

C Hear us, Lord.

A Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection.

C Hear us, Lord.

A Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

C Hear us, Lord.

*Or, He descended to the dead.

A Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind.

C Hear us, Lord.

A Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love.

C Hear us, Lord.

A Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.

C Hear us, Lord.

A Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.

C Hear us, Lord.

A Grant us grace to entrust _____ name to your never-failing love which sustained *him/her* in this life. Receive *him/her* into the arms of your mercy, and remember *him/her* according to the favor you bear for your people.

C Hear us, Lord.

15. The minister concludes the intercessions with one of the following prayers.

A God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

(284)

OR

A God, the generations rise and pass away before you. You are the strength of those who labor; you are the rest of the blessed dead. We rejoice in the company of your saints. We remember all who have lived in faith, all who have peacefully died, and especially those most dear to us who rest in you. . . . Give us in time our portion with those who have trusted in you and have striven to do your holy will. To your name, with the Church on earth and the Church in heaven, we ascribe all honor and glory, now and forever.

C Amen

(285)

16. When Holy Communion is celebrated, the service continues with the Peace. The Commendation then follows the Post-Communion canticle (“Lord, now you let your servant . . .”) and prayer.

17. When there is no Communion, the service continues with the Lord’s Prayer.

C 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen

OR C 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,
forever and ever. Amen

Sit

Commendation

18. The ministers take their places at the coffin.

P Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, name .
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of
your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive *him/her* into the arms
of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious
company of the saints in light. (286)

C Amen

P Let us go forth in peace.

C In the name of Christ. Amen

Stand

19. The procession forms and leaves the church, the ministers preceding the coffin.

20. As the procession leaves the church, a psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung. The canticle, “Lord, now you let your servant . . . ,” may be sung if it has not been sung in the Holy Communion (39).

Committal

21. *The ministers precede the coffin to the place of interment. During the procession, one or more of these verses may be sung or said.*

A I called to the Lord in my distress; the Lord answered by setting me free.

It is better to rely on the Lord than to put any trust in flesh. It is better to rely on the Lord than to put any trust in rulers.

I was pressed so hard that I almost fell, but the Lord came to my help.

There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! The right hand of the Lord is exalted! The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!”

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord. “This is the gate of the Lord; he who is righteous may enter.” (Ps. 118:5, 8-9, 13, 15-17, 19-20)

A For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then from my flesh I shall see God. (Job 19:25-26)

A None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. (Rom. 14:7-8)

A “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord; “he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.” (John 11:25-26a)

22. *When all have arrived at the place of burial, the following prayer may be said.*

P Almighty God, by the death and burial of Jesus, your anointed, you have destroyed death and sanctified the graves of all your saints. Keep our *brother/sister*, whose *body* we now lay to rest, in the company of all your saints and, at the last, raise *him/her* up to share with all your faithful people the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (287)

C Amen

23. *One of the following lessons may be read.*

And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.” (John 12:23–26)

Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:51–57)

But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Phil. 3:20–21)

24. *The coffin is lowered into the grave or placed in its resting place. Earth may be cast on the coffin as the minister says:*

P In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our *brother/sister*, _____, name, and we commit *his/her* body to *the ground/the deep/the elements/its resting place*; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless *him/her* and keep *him/her*. The Lord make his face shine on *him/her* and be gracious to *him/her*. The Lord look upon *him/her* with favor and give *him/her* ✠ peace.

C Amen

OR

P Since almighty God has called our *brother/sister*, _____, name, from this life to himself, we commit *his/her* body to *the earth from which it was made/the deep/the elements/its resting place*. Christ was the first to rise from the dead, and we know that he will raise up our mortal bodies to be like his in glory. We commend our *brother/sister* to the Lord: May the Lord receive *him/her* into his peace and raise *him/her* up on the last day.

C Amen

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen

OR **C** 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,
forever and ever. Amen

P Lord Jesus, by your death you took away the sting of death. Grant to us, your servants, so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake in your likeness; to you, the author and giver of life, be all honor and glory, now and forever. (288)

C Amen

25. *Then may be said:*

P Rest eternal grant *him/her*, O Lord;

A and let light perpetual shine upon *him/her*.

26. *The minister blesses the people.*

P The God of peace—who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant—make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C Amen

P Let us go in peace.