

**A Service
for
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism**



The Sacrament of Baptism

The Statement of Purpose

The Sacrament of Baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God. In Baptism we are called, claimed, and commissioned: we are called God's own and welcomed as children of God; claimed by Christ, united in Christ, and with one another as members of the Christian community in every time and place. We are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice, and strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the work of the church in the world.

The Institution of the Sacrament of Baptism

Matthew tells us, that after his resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples and said, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Go to peoples everywhere and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

The Presentation

The parents are presented to the Minister and the Congregation.

The Profession of Faith in the Triune God

You have brought your *child* here for Baptism. I ask you before God and this congregation here assembled:

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating; who has come to us in Jesus, the Word made Flesh, to reconcile and make new; and who works in us and others by the Spirit? (*I do by the grace of God.*)

The Commitment of the Parents

Will you commit to witnessing to God's love for all creation? (*I will, God being my helper.*)

Will you follow in Christ's Way and proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, in your words and your actions? (*I will, God being my helper.*)

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in Creation, and love and serve others? (*I will, God being my helper.*)

The Commitment of the Family of Faith

(*Those who are ready and willing to commit, will stand.*)

As members of the Body of Christ, do you commit yourselves to support these parents and, as far as you are able, to nurture this child within a congregation, a community that worships God, loves and serves others in Christ's name and, led by the Spirit, seeks justice and resists evil?

We do by the grace of God.

We will receive this child in Christ's name as we have been received. We all belong to the one household of faith in Jesus Christ, our one Lord, who calls us to one Baptism.

Therefore, in our one faith, let us join in pledging our support to this child and these parents.

As a baptized and baptizing people, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the Christian family. May God grant us all the grace to live out our Baptism. Amen. (*The Congregation is Seated*)

The Presentation of the Water *The water is poured into the font.*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious and Holy God, we bless You for the gift of life and, within life, for the gift of water. Your Spirit moved over the deep unordered water at creation and brought forth life. Over the waters You led Noah and his family to assure that human life would continue. Through the waters You led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of Jordan Your Son was baptized, and over those waters Your Spirit hovered to descend on Him.

Pour Your Spirit upon us and what we do here, that this water may be both sign and symbol of the new life that is ours in Christ. In His name we pray. Amen.

The Baptism

When the minister and child have returned to the Font, the Minister will invite all present to join in the blessing, saying:

**May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah,
The blessing of the Son, born of the woman Mary,
And the blessing of the Holy Spirit, who loves us and broods
over us as a mother over her children,
Be with you today and always. Amen**

The Welcome on behalf of the Congregation

The Clerk of Session will welcome the child and parents and present the Certificate of Baptism.

Please leave in the church or return to an usher following the service.