

A SERVICE FOR THE BAPTISM OF INFANTS

The compiler of this service introduced it with the words, ('I have aimed at the) production of a suitably robust service, which would take into account the whole experience of the church, from Orthodox to neo-Pentecostal'.

Lessons were used from the Jerusalem Bible and responses are from I.C.E.T. texts.

Comments from members will be welcomed by the compiler and/or the Editor. The compiler is Rev. Hugh Bain, M.A., Dunning.

(EDITOR)

BAPTISM OF INFANTS

Jesus the Son of God underwent a baptism of suffering for sinners. Now he has been raised from death, and God has baptised his Church with the Spirit of his Son.

Let us hear the witness of the New Testament to what God has done, and so rejoice in our salvation:

Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you'.

What proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. When we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life. Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God.

You must repent, and everyone of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.

¶ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R/ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

We who are baptised people now bring our children for baptism, confident that God has chosen them from the beginning to be together with us in the family of faith.

Let us pray:

Lord our God, we look to Jesus, through whose death and resurrection we are exalted to be your sons. In his name we renounce sin and defy Satan for ourselves and for our children. Bless us all and the water of baptism given for our use; seal us with your Holy Spirit, and bring this child/these children to joy and peace in believing, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The parents stand and respond 'I do' to the following questions:

Do you present
this child/these children
to be baptised, earnestly desiring that

he/she/they
 may ever be found
 a member/members
 of Christ's body the Church?

Do you believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and
 do you confess Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

Do you promise, depending on God's grace, to teach your children
 the truths and duties of the Christian faith, and to bring them up
 in the life and worship of the Church?

Addressing the congregation, the minister says:

Let us stand with these parents, together affirming our Christian
 faith.

Here follows a classic or contemporary statement of faith, read
 by the minister or repeated together by the whole congregation.

The congregation still standing, the parents bring forward their
 children for baptism:

A.B. . . I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
 and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Thereafter the congregation sings 'The Lord bless you and keep
 you . . .'

The minister declares:

In this holy sacrament, A.B. . . is/are now received into the one
 holy, catholic and apostolic Church, here made visible on earth;
 engaged to proclaim faith in Christ crucified and risen, and to
 serve him truly for ever.

Here is our Christian commission, delivered to the whole Church.

Jesus said:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go,
 therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise 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.

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.

All are seated.