

Sacrament Of Baptism
for
(full name of candidate)
_____ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
(name of city, state)
(date)

(baptism to be held during regular service of worship, before communion in order of worship)

Hymn of Baptism #368 "I Come to Be Baptized Today"

OPENING REMARKS

Minister:

Baptism has been celebrated by the Church as an act of faith from its beginning.

In the Bible we find Jesus saying to his disciples,
"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the close of the age."

Earlier in scripture, Jesus himself, was baptized by John as a sign of obedience to God, and in that moment was anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Also, in the earliest records of the church, persons have become disciples of Christ by confessing Jesus as God's Messiah, Lord and Savior of the world; and then participating in the church's celebration of baptism, to affirm God's claim upon their lives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CANDIDATES

Minister:

(name of baptismal candidate) comes today to be baptized and bear witness to her/his faith in Christ. She/He has professed a desire to be baptized, she/he has maintained a desire to accept Jesus Christ as her/his personal Lord and Savior, and she/he comes now to make public a testament of her/his faith and also the grace of God in her/his life, through confession of faith and the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN LITANY

Thus, it is in the spirit of celebration that I ask you to please join me in the Litany of Affirmation you will find in your bulletin.

Litany of Affirmation

Minister: As the people of God, representatives of the Christian community of faith, let us affirm (first name of candidate)'s desire to be baptized, and let us acknowledge our responsibility for her/his continuing spiritual nurture.

People: (first name of candidate)-- with joy and thanksgiving,
we welcome you into Christ's church; for we are all one in
Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support you;
to share the good news of the gospel with you, and to
help you know and follow our Lord and Savior.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray.

All:

O lord, uphold this servant of yours,
(first name of candidate)
by your Holy Spirit.

Give her/him the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and fear of the lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Guide and empower us also, almighty God.

Renew us in our own Christian faith.

Revitalize us in our commitment to You and your reconciling work in this world.

Through the youthful commitment of this one who celebrates your gift of eternal life with
her/his baptism today, affirm in all of our lives the promising experience of your
abundant grace, while we move into the future as your church, the body of Christ, your
ministers in this world.

In Christ's name we pray, amen.

PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM

As (first name of candidate) prepares to celebrate a new relationship with God, and also
God's church, through her/his baptism,

I invite you to make use of these next few moments before (first name of
candidate)'s baptism, and the spirit of the next hymn, to recall the significance of your
own baptism,

or your need for God's forgiveness and grace in your life.

Hymn of Supplication #365

"Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters"

(LEAVE SANCTUARY TO GET READY....)

J(first name of candidate)'s BAPTISM

Minister: At this time as you come before God and this congregation to confess Jesus
Christ as Lord and Savior, I now ask you, (first name of candidate), do you renounce evil,
repent of your sins, and turn to Christ?

candidate: I do!

Minister: Do you confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and do you proclaim Christ to be Lord and Savior of the world and also of your life?

candidate: I do!

Minister: And, is it your will to celebrate the new life God has to give you, and furthermore become a member of God's universal church, a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and a member of this congregation through the Holy Sacrament of baptism?

candidate: It is my will!

Minister: (full name of candidate), child of the covenant, on the basis of your confession, in the spirit of your faithful commitment, and by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, I now baptize you, in the name
of the One who made the world,
and of Jesus Christ
who redeemed humankind,
and of the Holy Spirit, who eternally gives life to all people of God.

AMEN.

The Act Of Baptism

(The following is said after immersion,
while laying hands on the baptized's head)

Minister: The Holy Spirit be at work in you to do
far more than you dare ask or imagine,
keeping you in the knowledge of Christ's love,
too wonderful to be measured.

~PRAYER AFTER BAPTISM

(Say this prayer BEFORE leaving baptistry)

Minister: *Gracious God of Life, we rejoice together in the gift of Christ, who makes it possible for us to experience a newness of life in You. We give You thanks for (first name of candidate) who has come to a point in her/his growing faith that she/he has made this important step in Christian baptism, acknowledging your grace --through the water and your most Holy Spirit.*

Give to this newly baptized child:

*strength for life's journey,
courage in time of suffering,
the joy of faith,
the freedom of love,
and the hope of new life;
through Jesus Christ who makes us one.*

Grant, also, that we might embrace (first name of candidate) in our care, and support her/him, share with her/him, and rely on her/his gifts as well, as we grow together in the universal and local community of faith called your church. In the name of the Christ, we pray, AMEN.

Hymn of Communion ~see insert / song #3
"The Holy Heart"
(Elders & Deacons come forward during final verse of hymn)

WELCOME AFTER RETURNING TO SANCTUARY

(Newly baptized is dressed and
in front of communion table,
facing front, carrying unlit candle)

-Pastor takes a flame from the Christ Candle-

Minister: Jesus said: " I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Receive this light now. Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God.

(Light the candle of the newly baptized;
then have her/him face the congregation)

Minister: Will you join me in welcoming (first name of candidate) into
our family of faith with the litany on page 369 your hymnals?

(first name of candidate)

(After litany, [first name of candidate] places her/his candle on the table;
then she/he goes and sits back down in pew with family to share in the communion
portion of the service with entire congregation.)