



The order of Baptism in the Principal Service

Authorised by General Synod in 2017

The letter *C* stands for congregation, the letter *A* stands for all service participants (priest/liturgist and congregation), and the letter *L* stands for liturgist (service leaders, priest, or another person who has a bishops' permission to administer the service). *CL* (co-liturgist) is used to indicate roles for readers, prayer leaders, communion assistants, cantors, choirs and others who perform liturgical tasks. When there are two letters, *L/CL* or *CL/L*, the first has primacy. More elaborate descriptions of the tasks of the liturgist and the co-liturgists may be found in the guidelines on different parts of the service in the Service handbook.

1 The reception of the baptismal candidate(s)

L | In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

or

L | In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: Our creator, redeemer and sanctifier.

For the baptism of children:

L | With thanks and joy we bring *this child/these children* to God through the sacrament of baptism. Through baptism, God receives us and unites us with the crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ.

For the baptism of older children, adolescents or adults:

L | With thanks and joy we bring *NN/you* to God through the sacrament of baptism. Through baptism, God receives us and unites us with the crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ.

The following text may be read:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. [John 3.16](#)

L | Hear how kindly Jesus receives children, and how he opens the kingdom of God to them:

The following text may be read by a member of the baptism party, a co-liturgist or the liturgist:

CL/L | People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. [Mark 10.13-16](#)

For the baptism of an older child, adolescent or adult, this text may be replaced with the following:

L | Hear what the apostle Paul writes about baptism:

CL/L | But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. [Titus 3.4-7](#)

or

L | Jesus says that in baptism we are reborn:

CL/L | Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be

born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [John 3.1-5](#)

or

L | The apostle Paul writes about baptism:

CL/L | Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism in death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

[Romans 6.3-8](#)

L | Let us give thanks and pray:

CL/L | Eternal God, you give life to all beings and have created us in your image:

We thank you for *NN/NN (first name)*. She/he/they is/are precious in your sight.

Keep *her/him/them* in your care, and give *her/him/them* a home in your church. Amen.

A short introduction to the baptism ceremony may be made at this point or before the final thanksgiving (1 Pet 1.3).

2 The baptismal hymn

A baptismal hymn may be sung either here, before 1 Reception of the baptismal candidate(s), before 4 The responsibility of the godparents/sponsors or as a conclusion to the baptism. The baptismal hymn may be divided into two or more sections, and sung at various intervals in the baptism liturgy. It may also be performed by as a choral work, by a soloist or as an instrumental piece at either of these intervals.

3 Baptism and faith in scripture

L | Let us hear the words of Christ about baptism:

CL/L | And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’ [Matthew 28.18-20](#)

4 The responsibility of the godparents/sponsors

For the baptism of a child:

L | Would the parents and godparents/sponsors please stand.

You are witnesses to the Christian baptism of *this child/these children*. Together with our congregation and the whole Church, you are now given a holy responsibility: to care for *her/him/them*, pray for *her/him/them*, teach *her/him/them* to pray and help *her/him/them* to use the word of God and receive the sacrament of the Eucharist so that *she/he/they* may live and grow in the Christian faith.

For the baptism of an older child/adolescent or adult:

L | Would the (parents and) godparents/sponsors please stand.

You are witnesses to the Christian baptism of *NN/these candidates*. Together with our congregation and the whole Church, you are now given a holy responsibility: to care for *her/him/them*, pray for *her/him/them*, teach *her/him/them* to pray and help *her/him/them* to use the word of God and receive the sacrament of the Eucharist so that *she/he/they* may live and grow in the Christian faith.

5 The renunciation of evil and the confession of faith

For the baptism of children:

L | Together, let us renounce the devil and all evil works, and confess the faith in which we baptise our children:

All stand.

For the baptism of an older child, adolescent or adult:

L | Will you join this congregation in renouncing the devil and all evil works, and confess the faith in which you wish to be baptised?

Candidate | Yes.

The candidate may, if necessary, both here and where otherwise appropriate, respond in non-verbal language.

When both children, adolescents and/or adults are baptised in the same service, the eldest are addressed first.

Once everyone has answered, the liturgist says:

L | Let us together renounce the devil and all evil works and confess our faith:

All stand.

A | I renounce the devil, the ways of sin, and all evil works.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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. *The Apostle's Creed*

6 The baptism

Water is poured into the font.

L | Merciful God, thank you for the waters of baptism, which by your word is a source of grace. In baptism, you forgive us our sins, free us from the powers of death, and give us the promise of eternal

life. Send down your Spirit, so that *she/he/those* who *is/are* to be baptised may rise up into a new life with Jesus Christ our Lord.

A verse from a suitable hymn may be sung between each baptism. The baptism party proceed to the baptismal font.

For the baptism of children:

L | What is the child's name?

The person who carries the child states the child's name.

L | Do you wish for *NN* to be baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and to be brought up according to the Christian life and faith?

The person carrying the child, together with the parents, guardians and godparents/sponsors, responds:
Yes.

For the baptism of an older child, adolescent or adult:

L | What is your name?

The candidate responds by stating his or her name. If necessary, another person may state his or her name.

L | *NN*, do you wish to be baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and to live according to the Christian life and faith?

The candidate responds:
Yes.

The liturgist says the prayer before and after the signing of the cross with an open hand, facing the child/candidate.

L | May God protect your coming and your going both now and forever.

I make the holy sign of the cross (✠) as a sign that you will belong to the crucified and risen Jesus Christ, and believe in him.

L | *NN*, according to the words and commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ, I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

While this is being said, the liturgist generously ladles water by hand over the head of the child/candidate three times. The liturgist places her/his hand on the head of the child/candidate (the hands of the child's parents/guardians and godparents may also be so placed) and says:

L | The almighty God has now given you his Holy Spirit, made you one of his children and accepted you into the fellowship of his faithful people. May God strengthen you with his grace to eternal life. Peace be with you.

The child/candidate may then be presented to the congregation with the following words:

This is *NN*, a child of God, who has been baptised into our congregation and the world-wide Church of Christ.

After the baptism, a candle may be lit for each child/candidate. The lighting of candles may take place here or during the intercessions of the congregation. The liturgist may say:

L | This light shines for *NN*.

The candle(s) is/are then placed into a candleholder and are allowed to burn until the service is completed.

When (all) the candle(s) is/are lit, the liturgist says:

L | Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, '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](#)

7 Prayer and thanksgiving

The prayers are read here or during the intercessions of the congregation.

L | Let us give thanks and pray.

CL/L | Faithful God, we thank you for the sacrament of baptism, in which you receive us and call us by our names. We pray for *NN/the children/those* who *has/have* been baptised here today. Strengthen *her/his/their* parents and godparents. Lord, hear our prayer.

or

CL/L | Faithful God, we thank you for the sacrament of baptism, in which you welcome us into your Church. We pray for *NN/the children/those* who *has/have* been baptised here today. Hold your protecting

hand over *her/him/them*, and give your love and wisdom to all those who care for *her/him/them*. Lord, hear our prayer.

or

CL/L | Faithful God, we thank you for the sacrament of baptism, and for the promise that your Son will remain with us now and forever. We pray for *NN/those* who *has/have* been baptised today. Keep *her/him/them* in *her/his/their* faith in you, so that *she/he/they* may walk in the light and reach our eternal place in your kingdom. Lord, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is said. If the service includes communion, the Lord's Prayer may be omitted here.

L | Let us say together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

A | **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.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

Other recognised translations of the Lord's Prayer may be used instead.

L | Blessed be God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us new birth and a living hope through Christ's resurrection from the dead. **1 Peter 1.3**

The baptism liturgy may be concluded with a hymn, cf. section 2.