

Collect

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened heaven's gate and revealed yourself as Father
by the voice that called Jesus your beloved Son,
baptizing him, in the power of the Spirit:
reveal yourself to us now, to claim us as your children,
and so complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
in the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Poem: Dance By Paul Hayward read by William Garbutt

Open your heart to happiness.
Let every pore absorb light.
Swim in the joy of the here and now,
And cast off the darkness of night.
Walk in the summer of sunshine.
Fly in the blueness of sky.
Know possibilities are boundless.
Understand that nothing can die.
Step from the shadows of torment.
Sing 'til your throat gets too sore.
Smile for as long as the day is,
And laugh just a little bit more.
Breathe slowly and deeply and listen.
Give all your ideas a chance.
Let the sun beat down on your goodness,
And kick off your shoes and dance.

Reading: Mark 1: 1-11

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight,' ”

so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Followed by a Short Talk

Presentation of the Candidate

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them'. We thank God for Grace who has come to be baptized today. Christ loves her and welcomes her into his Church.

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome Grace and uphold her in her new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

Parents and godparents, the Church receives Grace with joy. Today we are trusting God for her growth in faith. Will you pray for her, draw her by your example into the community of faith and walk with her in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism Grace begins her journey in faith. You speak for her today. Will you care for her, and help her to take her place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

A large candle will be lit. The minister addresses the candidate through her parents and godparents

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Signing with the Cross

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead, saying

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his for ever.

**Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God
deliver you from the powers of darkness,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. Amen.

Prayer over the Water

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

We praise you, loving Father,
for the gift of your Son Jesus.
He was baptised in the River Jordan,
where your Spirit came upon him
and revealed him as the Son you love.
He sent his followers to baptize all who turn to him.
Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water,
that those who are baptized in it
may be cleansed in the water of life,
and, filled with your Spirit,
may know that they are loved as your children,
safe in Christ for ever. **Amen.**

The Profession of Faith

The minister addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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 Baptism

The minister pours water, saying

Grace Elizabeth,
I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Grace, may God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour
upon you the riches of his grace,
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory. **Amen.**

The Commission

God of grace and life,
today Grace has been given a place among your people,
She has been touched by your love
and she has begun a life-long journey of faith.
Help her, with all God's people,
to stay faithful to that baptism.
Help us all to grow in friendship with you,
and prepare us for that glorious day
when the whole creation will be made perfect
in your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
Grace, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

Prayers

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer

**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**