AN ALTERNATE ORDER FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF BAPTISM

Abridged Form

See rubrics in two previous forms.

Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our Father in heaven, we bless thee that thou hast been pleased to enter into a covenant of grace with thy people and hast appointed the holy Sacrament of Baptism to be its sign and seal. Enable us to receive it with true faith; and, remembering that we are not our own, but belong to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ, to walk worthily of the Lord unto all pleasing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Meaning of the Sacrament

Dearly Beloved in the Lord: The principal parts of the doctrine of holy Baptism are these three:

First. That we, with our children, are by nature sinful and guilty before God, and therefore cannot enter the kingdom of God except we be born again.

Secondly. Holy Baptism, through the dipping in or sprinkling with water, witnesses and seals unto us the washing away of our sins through Jesus Christ. For we are baptized “into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” When we are baptized into the name of the Father, God seals unto us his covenant of grace; when we are baptized into the name of the Son, God assures us of our cleansing through the blood of Christ; and when we are baptized into the name of the Holy Spirit, God promises that he will dwell in us and sanctify us to be members of Christ.

Thirdly. Since in this holy Sacrament we enter into covenant with God, we are admonished and obliged by it unto a new obedience, that we forsake the world, crucify our old nature, and walk in a new and holy life. And if through weakness we fall into sin, we must not despair of God’s mercy nor continue in sin, since Baptism is a sign and seal of God’s eternal covenant of grace with us.
Section I is to be read when infants are to be baptized. In case of adult Baptism, proceed directly to the reading of section II.

Although our young children do not understand these truths, we may not therefore exclude them from Baptism. For as they are, without their knowledge, partakers of the condemnation in Adam, so are they again received unto grace in Christ. For God has spoken unto Abraham, the father of all the faithful, and therefore unto us and our children, saying, “I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations, for an everlasting covenant; to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.” This he also testified unto us by the Apostle Peter, saying, “For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” Our Lord Jesus Christ also took young children in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them, and said, “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God.”

Children are therefore to be baptized as heirs of the kingdom of God and of his covenant; and parents are bound to instruct their children in the duties and privileges connected therewith, when they shall arrive at the years of discretion.

Vows

Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ: you believe that Baptism is an ordinance of God to seal unto us and to our children his covenant. Therefore it must be used for that end and not out of custom or superstition. That it may then be manifest that you are thus minded, you are to arise and answer sincerely to these questions:

Do you acknowledge that although our children are by nature sinful and guilty before God, they are sanctified in Christ, and therefore, as members of his Church, ought to be baptized?

Do you accept the doctrines of salvation, which are contained in the Old and New Testaments and in the Articles of the Christian Faith, and which are taught here in this Church?

Do you promise to instruct this child in the truths of God’s Word and in
the way of salvation through Jesus Christ; to pray for him and teach him to pray; and to train him, as God may give you grace, in all holy living, to the end that he may enjoy eternal life both in this world and in the world to come?

Answer: Yes.

Then the minister, in baptizing, shall say:

_N_______, I baptize thee into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen._

**Prayer**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we thank thee that we may bring _this child_ to thee, and baptize _him_ into thy most holy name. Guard, we beseech thee, _his_ life and health, and fulfill to _him_ thy gracious promises. Incline _him_ by thy Holy Spirit to take the place which belongs to _him_ in the Church of thy Son Jesus Christ, and to continue Christ’s faithful servant unto _his_ life’s end. Enable _him_ to overcome the temptations of the world; to adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things; and finally to obtain an inheritance among thy saints in light.

Bless also thy servants, _his_ parents, that they may faithfully perform the duties laid upon them, training the _child_ whom thou hast given them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and walking before _him_ and with _him_ in the beauty of holiness.

Bless, we beseech thee, all the children of thy Church; and prepare them hereafter to carry on the work now committed to us. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.
Section II is to be read when an adult is to be baptized and admitted to the Lord's Supper.

It is, therefore, not lawful to baptize those who have come to years of discretion, except they be sensible of their sins and make confession both of their repentance and of their faith in Christ. Since, then, you are desirous of holy Baptism, that it may be to you a seal of your reception into the Church of God, you are to arise and sincerely give answer before God and his Church:

Vows

If at the same service there are those who, baptized in infancy, now seek admission to the Lord's Table, the vows may be used for their admission as well as for the adults who are to be baptized and admitted.

Do you believe in the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; who has made heaven and earth and all that in them is, and so maintains and governs them that nothing comes to pass, either in heaven or on earth, without his divine will?

Answer: Yes.

Do you acknowledge that you are by nature sinful and guilty before God, and that you have frequently in thought, word, and deed, transgressed the commandments of God; and are you heartily sorry for these sins?

Answer: Yes.

Do you believe that our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God and the Son of Man, is given to you of God to be your Savior, and that you receive by this faith remission of sins in his blood; and that you are made by the power of the Holy Spirit a member of Christ and of his Church?

Answer: Yes.

Do you assent to all the Articles of the Christian religion as they are taught in this Church according to the Word of God; and do you promise to persevere in the communion of the Church, not only in the hearing of the Word, but also in the use of the Lord’s Supper?
Answer: Yes.

Have you taken a firm resolution always to lead a Christian life; to forsake the world and its evil lusts, as is becoming the members of Christ and his Church, and to submit *yourself* to all Christian admonitions?

Answer: Yes.

The good and great God mercifully grant his grace and blessing to this your purpose, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Administration of the Sacrament

*Then the minister, in baptizing, shall say:*

$N_{________}$, I baptize thee into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*A declaration may here be made (see the first Order) admitting the candidates to the Lord's Supper.*

Prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we give thee most humble and hearty thanks that thou hast called us to the knowledge of thy grace and the faith of thy Son, and to the covenant of salvation, wherein we are sealed by holy Baptism. Give thy Holy Spirit to *this thy servant*, that, being born again and made *an heir* of God, *he* may keep *himself* in thy love, and receive the fulfillment of thy promises; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who, with thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, the only true God, lives and reigns, world without end. Amen.