

## **Holy Baptism in the Context of A Service of the Word**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all  
**and also with you.**

### ***Words of Welcome***

#### ***Opening Hymn: 330 God is Here***

1 God is here! As we his people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of his Spirit into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font and pulpit; here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

3 Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold,  
here, as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

4 Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the gospel, help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive:  
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you, we believe!

### **Introduction**

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit, and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth. Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. Here we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life.

## **Confession and Absolution**

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*1 John 1: 8,9*

Let us kneel or sit and confess our sins to God our Father.

**O God, our loving Father in heaven,  
we confess that we have sinned against you;  
we have broken your commandments;  
we have often been selfish,  
and we have not loved you as we should.  
For these, and all our sins, forgive us, we pray:  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins, and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

## **The Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
Raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## ***First Reading: Acts 9: 36-43***

### **A Reading from the Book of Acts:**

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs.

Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 23**

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; ♦  
**therefore can I lack nothing.**
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦  
**and leads me beside still waters.**
- 3 He shall refresh my soul ♦  
**and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will  
fear no evil; ♦  
**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble  
me; ♦  
**you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.**
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of  
my life, ♦  
**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

### **Revelation 7: 9-17**

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

They cried out in a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!’ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.’ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’ I said to him, ‘Sir, you are the one that knows.’ Then he said to me, ‘These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

***Hymn: 376 Ye Holy Angels Bright***

1 Ye holy angels bright,  
who wait at God’s right hand,  
or through the realms of light fly at your Lord’s command,  
assist our song,  
or else the theme too high doth seem  
for mortal tongue.

2 Ye blesse’d souls at rest, who ran this earthly race,  
and now, from sin released,  
behold your Saviour’s face,  
his praises sound,  
as in his sight  
with sweet delight ye do abound.

3 Ye saints, who toil below,  
adore your heavenly King,  
and onward as ye go  
some joyful anthem sing;  
take what he gives  
and praise him still, through good and ill,  
who ever lives!

4 My soul, bear thou thy part,  
triumph in God above,  
and with a well-tuned heart  
sing thou the songs of love!  
Let all thy days  
till life shall end, whate'er he send,  
be filled with praise.

***Holy Gospel: John 10: 22-30***

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John:

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah,\* tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.\* The Father and I are one.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

***Thought for the Day***

***Hymn: 644 Faithful Shepherd Feed Me***

1 Faithful Shepherd, feed me  
in the pastures green;  
faithful Shepherd, lead me  
where your steps are seen.

2 Hold me fast, and guide me  
in the narrow way;  
so, with you beside me,  
I need never stray.

3 Daily bring me nearer  
to the heavenly shore;  
make my faith grow clearer,  
help me love you more.

4 Hallow every pleasure,  
every gift and pain,  
be my only treasure,  
all I hope to gain.

5 Day by day prepare me,  
as you see is best,  
then let angels bear me  
to your promised rest.

***The Presentation***

We welcome those who have come to be baptized.  
I invite their sponsors to present them now.

***The sponsors answer***

**We present Sadhbh/Alexander/Ben/Ada/Shane/Dylan to be  
baptized.**

Parents and godparents, will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing Sadhbh/Alexander/Ben/Ada/Shane/Dylan for baptism and answer on their behalf? By your own prayers and example, by your teaching and love, will you encourage them in the life and faith of the Christian Community?

**With the help of God, we will.**

Parents and godparents, having made certain that Alex and Katarina were baptized with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, do you accept the responsibilities placed upon you as sponsors?

**We do.**

By your own prayers and example, by your teaching and love, will you encourage him in the life and faith of the Christian Community?

**With the help of God, we will.**

In baptism these children begin (and Alex and Katarina began) their journey in faith. You speak for them today. Will you care for them, and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

**With the help of God, we will.**

In baptism, God calls us from darkness to his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all proud 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.**

*The presiding minister says to the congregation*  
You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.  
Will you support them in this calling?

*The congregation answers*  
**We will support them.**

### ***The Baptism***

*Water is poured into the font.*

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 our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life.

With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things.

**Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise.

**Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks that through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph.

**Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim your Kingdom.

**Thanks be to God.**



And now we give you thanks that you have called these your servants, Sadhbh, Alexander, Ben, Ada, Shane and Dylan, to new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism. Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that they who are baptized in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection. May they die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue for ever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The presiding minister shall ask the following question of each candidate for baptism, or, in the case of those unable to answer for themselves, the sponsors of each candidate:*

Do you believe and accept the Christian faith into which these children are to be baptized?

**I do.**

*The presiding minister addresses the congregation.*

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess, together with the candidates' sponsors, 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 God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in God 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 presiding minister baptizes by dipping the candidates in the water, or by pouring water over them, saying*

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

*Those who have been baptized are signed with the cross*

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of the cross.

Live as a disciple of Christ, fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.

**Confess Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, look for his coming in glory.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

*The minister continues*

God has called you into his Church.

**We therefore receive and welcome you  
as members with us of the body of Christ,  
as children of the one heavenly Father,  
and as inheritors of the kingdom of God.**

### **The Prayers**

Father, we thank you that Sadhbh, Alexander, Ben, Ada, Shane, Dylan and Alex and Katarina have been born again of water and the Holy Spirit, and have become your own children by adoption, and members of your Church. Grant that they may grow in the faith in which they have been baptized; Grant that they themselves may profess it when they come to be confirmed; Grant that they may bear witness to it by lives of service to others; and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, bless these children's homes and families, and give such grace and wisdom to all who have the care of them, that by their word and good example they may teach them to know and love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Other prayers and thanksgivings are offered*

**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.**

***Hymn: 658 One More Step***

1 One more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go;  
from the old things to the new  
keep me travelling along with you:

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me travelling along with you.*

2 Round the corner of the world I turn,  
more and more about the world I learn;  
all the new things that I see  
you'll be looking at along with me:

3 As I travel through the bad and good,  
keep me travelling the way I should;  
where I see no way to go  
you'll be telling me the way, I know:

4 Give me courage when the world is rough,  
keep me loving though the world is tough;  
leap and sing in all I do,  
keep me travelling along with you:

5 You are older than the world can be,  
you are younger than the life in me;  
ever old and ever new,  
keep me travelling along with you:

### ***The Blessing***

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen, and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The newly baptized is given a lighted candle and sent out with these words:*

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

**Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.**

Go in peace to love and to serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**