

## Commission

We praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for new spiritual life. May God fulfil his promise and complete his saving work in you. May he bring you into all the joys of his eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A prayer for all who are baptised into Christ:*

Gracious God, you have brought us from death to life; we dedicate ourselves to you. Produce in us the fruit of your Spirit. Equip us to serve your people and advance your gospel in the world. Enable us to live holy and righteous lives and to please you in all that we do; in the name of Jesus our Saviour. **Amen.**

*A prayer for parents and godparents:*

Heavenly Father, we pray for the parents and godparents of *these children*. Give them the spirit of wisdom and love, that they may teach *them* by word and example to know you. Grant us in our homes the joy that comes from knowing you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*If it is not used elsewhere in the service, the Lord's Prayer is said here..*

**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.**

*The service concludes with these words:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

## Service of Baptism

### Introduction

When our Lord Jesus Christ had risen from the dead, he commanded his disciples to preach the gospel to all nations and to baptise those who believe. They obeyed his command and we read of the apostle Peter preaching in these words, "Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him".

We read here the promise of God to give forgiveness and his Holy Spirit to all who turn to Christ. This promise also embraces the children of God's people. The risen Jesus is willing to give the blessing of eternal life to our children whom we bring to him in faith. Children must themselves express their faith in God when they are able to do so. They must turn away from sin and put their trust in Jesus Christ.

You who already trust in Christ are asked to make the baptismal promises on behalf of *these children*. You must also undertake to teach and encourage *them* in the same faith.

*The minister invites the parents and godparents to stand, and he addresses them as follows*

Are you yourself a follower of Jesus Christ, trusting the gracious promises of God?

**I am.**

Are you willing to sponsor *these children*, answering for *them* now and accepting responsibility for *their* Christian upbringing in the life of the Church?

**I am willing.**

I ask you now to answer in the name of *these children*:

Do you turn away from your sins, the Devil and all evil?

**I turn away from them all.**

Do you turn to Christ?

**I turn to Christ.**

*The minister invites the congregation to stand and says:*

*These children have* been brought for baptism. Let us all profess the faith into which *they are* to be baptised and nurtured.

### **Profession of Faith**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived of 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 from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
from there 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 Decision** *the minister says to the parents and godparents:*

I ask you now to answer in the name of *these children*.

Do you profess this faith?

**I do.**

Will you follow Jesus faithfully, and obey his commands throughout your life?

**With his help, I intend to do so.**

**Prayer** *the minister says*

Let us pray.

Lord, our merciful God, you have promised in Christ to be our God and the God and Father of our children. Fulfil your promise to us, and for Jesus Christ's sake receive *these children* as *members* of your family. Grant that *they* may receive the fullness of your grace and the washing away of all *their* sins, for without these blessings no one can enter your kingdom. May your Spirit live and work in *them*, that *they* may be yours forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Baptism** *the minister says*

Name this child.

*The minister baptises each child by dipping or immersing in water or by pouring water.*

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

**Signing with the Cross** *the minister continues*

We receive you into the congregation of Christ's flock and sign you with the sign of the cross, to show that you are to be true to Christ crucified until your life's end. **Amen.**