

The Sacrament of Baptism (Adults)

Book of Government §9-2D; Book of Worship §3-2F

When a person who was not baptized as an infant desires to profess faith in Christ, being grafted into his body and being admitted into the visible church, the sacrament of baptism may be received, preferably at the regular Sunday morning worship service of the congregation. It is also understood that such person shall receive proper instruction from the pastor prior to the sacrament being received. At the appropriate time in the worship service, preferably following the sermon, the pastor may use words such as the following:

Sacraments are holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace, representing Christ and all his benefits. Baptism is a sacrament of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ. By the act of baptism, a person becomes a part of the visible church, for it is a sign and seal of the covenant of grace for believers. As a sign it proclaims God's forgiveness and our redemption in Jesus Christ. As a seal, God marks us as adopted children of our heavenly Father. It indicates our engrafting into Christ, our rebirth, the remission of sins, and our ability by the power of the Spirit to walk in newness of life.

_____ [name], it is your duty in offering yourself for baptism to answer the following questions:

1. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and depend upon him alone for your salvation as he is offered in the Gospel?
2. Do you now promise and resolve, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
3. Do you promise to serve Christ and his church by supporting and participating with this congregation in its service of God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability?

When the candidate has responded in the affirmative, the pastor may use words such as the following:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Do you, the members of this congregation, and in the name of the visible church of our Lord Jesus Christ, take responsibility for the continued nurture of _____ [name], promising to set a godly example by your own life, and to pray for [him/her] in this new life of faith?

Once the congregation has responded in the affirmative, the pastor may offer a prayer to God, asking that his Spirit bless the element of the sacrament, the water, and all those participating. The pastor may then baptize the candidate using these words:

_____ [name], I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The pastor may then offer a prayer for the effectual working of the Spirit in the life of the recipients, and then declare them as received into the fellowship of Christ's church and into membership in the congregation, along with all the rights and privileges pertaining to such membership.