

A Guide to Services of Holy Baptism



St. David's
Episcopal Church
— EST. 1715 —

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ! Baptism is an important and sacramental moment in the Christian faith and life, and we are happy that you have chosen St. David's Church as the Christian community in which you/your child will receive this sacrament.

Holy Baptism as defined in *The Catechism* from The Book of Common Prayer, page 858, is as follows:

What is Holy Baptism?

Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God.

What is the outward and visible sign in Baptism?

The outward and visible sign in Baptism is water, in which the person is baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

What is the inward and spiritual grace in Baptism?

The inward and spiritual grace in Baptism is union with Christ in his death and resurrection, birth into God's family the Church, forgiveness of sins, and new life in the Holy Spirit.

What is required of us at Baptism?

It is required that we renounce Satan, repent of our sins, and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Why then are infants baptized?

Infants are baptized so that they can share citizenship in the Covenant, membership in Christ, and redemption by God.

How are the promises for infants made and carried out?

Promises are made for them by their parents and sponsors, who guarantee that the infants will be brought up within the Church, to know Christ and be able to follow him.

The sacrament of Baptism at St. David's can take place in the context of a worship service, or it can be private.

For baptisms during our worship services, the following information is helpful:

- The baptism takes place in the context of a Eucharist.
- Pews are reserved for you (and your family). It is helpful to sit in a location in the pew that is easily accessible to the aisle.
- The service begins with a hymn (except at 8:00 am) and a procession. After the hymn, the service of Holy Baptism begins on page 299 of the Book of Common Prayer.
 - After the sermon, the priest invites the baptismal candidate, family, and godparents/sponsors to gather around the baptismal font.
- *In the church, there is limited space so we gather around the font or the center aisle as we are able.*
- *In the chapel, we make a semi circle around the font so that the congregation is able to see.*

Presentation of the Candidate for Holy Baptism

After everyone is in place, the priest says, "The candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented" as indicated on page 301 of the prayer book (see attached).

Each family or sponsor then presents their candidate in unison. We follow along together from page 301-308 (see attached).

Renunciation and Acceptance, Baptismal Covenant and Promises

There are questions to which the parents and Godparents/sponsors respond in unison. There are also questions to which the entire congregation responds. The congregation is involved because baptism is a time when the congregation is welcoming a new Christian into the community of faith and they pledge their responsibility and care.

The Thanksgiving over the Water

The priest then says prayers over the water in the baptismal font, calling to our memory to God's actions of love throughout salvation history. The priest blesses the water in the name of the Trinity.

Baptism, Chrismation, and Initiation/Welcoming Prayer

After the thanksgiving over the water, the baptismal candidate is baptized at the font, and then immediately receives the oil of chrism on their forehead.

The priest then introduces the new Christian to the congregation. The parents receive a baptismal candle, the priest leads a prayer, and then the congregation welcomes the new Christian.

We then share the Peace. The baptismal candle may be extinguished at this time and all may return to pews.

A copy of the Baptismal service as printed beginning on page 301 of the Prayer Book

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate

Celebrant: The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Candidates unable to answer for themselves are presented by their Parents and Godparents.

Parents and Godparents: I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism

Celebrant: Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents: I will, with God's help.

The Celebrant will ask the following questions and the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the candidate

Q: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

A: I renounce them

Q: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

A: I renounce them

Q: Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

A: I renounce them

Q: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

A: I do

Q: Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

A: I do

After the presentation of candidates, the Celebrant addresses the congregation saying:

Celebrant: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this child in her life in Christ?

People: We will

Celebrant: Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal Covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in god, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dies and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: 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.

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidates

The Celebrant then says to the congregation.

Let us now pray for *these persons* who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth {and for those who have renewed their commitment to Christ.}

A Person appointed leads the following petition

Leader: Deliver *them*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Open *their hearts* to your grace and truth.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Fill *them* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Keep *them* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Send *them* into the world in witness of your love.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Bring *them* to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

The Celebrant says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. *Amen*

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant:

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who hear are cleansed from sin and born again may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

The Baptism

Candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant who pours water upon the candidate, saying

N. I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Then the Priest places a hand on the child's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross {using Chrism} and saying

N. you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever.
Amen.

Priest prays over candidate saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.
Amen.

Celebrant says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People: We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Peace