

Postcommunion Prayer

Almighty God, we thank thee that in thy great love thou hast fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and hast given unto us a foretaste of thy heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be unto us a comfort in affliction; and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

9. Of the Reign of Christ

Collect

I. Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in thy well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, we offer you the sacrifice by which your Son reconciles mankind. May it bring unity and peace to the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of Christ the King, *or*
Preface of the Ascension, *or*
Preface of Baptism

Preface 16, or 11, or 25.

10. At Baptism

This Mass is celebrated for the baptism of adults, especially when confirmation is given in the same service. It may also be celebrated for the baptism of children, and may be said on any day except the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, solemnities, Ash Wednesday, and the weekdays of Holy Week.

Collect

I. Almighty God, who by our baptism into the death and resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ dost turn us from the old life of sin: Grant that we, being reborn to new life in him, may live in righteousness and holiness all our days; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin: Grant that we, being reborn to new life in him, may live in righteousness and holiness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, you have renewed these men and women in the likeness of Christ your Son, (have sealed them with your Spirit,) and united them to your priestly people. Accept them with the sacrifice offered by your Church. Grant this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Or this:

Lord, you welcome us to your table, where bread and wine are prepared for us. May we who celebrate this Eucharistic feast be counted as fellow-citizens of the saints and members of your household. Grant this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of Baptism

Preface 25.

11. At Confirmation

Collect

I. Grant, Almighty God, that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our baptism into the death and resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ, may be renewed in thy Holy Spirit, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. Grant, Almighty God, that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, may be renewed in your Holy Spirit, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, we celebrate the memorial of our redemption by which your Son won for us the gift of the Holy Spirit. Accept our offerings, and send us your Spirit to make us more like Christ in bearing witness to the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of Baptism, or Preface of Pentecost

Preface 25, or 12.

12. On the Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church

Collect

I. O Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer: We give thee thanks for the fellowship of those who have worshiped in this place; and we pray that all who seek thee here may find thee, and be filled with thy joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer: We give you thanks for the fellowship of those who have worshiped in this place, and we pray that all who seek you here may find you, and be filled with your joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, as we recall the day you filled this church with your glory and holiness, may our lives also become an acceptable offering to you. Grant this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of the Dedication of a Church

Preface 17.

13. For a Church Convention or Synod

Collect

I. Almighty and everlasting Father, who hast given the Holy Spirit to abide with us for ever: Bless, we beseech thee, with his grace and presence, the bishops and the other clergy and the laity here (or now, or soon to be) assembled in thy Name, that thy Church, being preserved in true faith and godly discipline, may fulfill all the mind of him who loved it and gave himself for it, thy Son Jesus Christ our Savior; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. Almighty and everlasting Father, you have given the Holy Spirit to abide with us for ever: Bless, we pray, with his grace and presence, the bishops and the other clergy and the laity here (or now, or soon to be) assembled in your Name, that your Church, being preserved in true faith and godly discipline, may fulfill all the mind of him who loved it and gave himself for it, your Son Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

God of love, look upon the gifts of your servants, and give us light to know your way, to understand it clearly, and to follow it in confidence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of the Season, or

Preface of Pentecost

Preface 12.

14. For the Unity of the Church

Collect

I. Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, even as thou and he are one: Grant that thy Church, being bound together in love and obedience to thee, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom thou didst send; the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, by one perfect sacrifice you gained us as your people. Bless us and all your Church with gifts of unity and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *Amen.*

Or this:

Lord, hear our prayer for your mercy, as we celebrate this memorial of our salvation. May this sacrament of your love be our sign of unity and our bond of charity. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Or this:

Father, may the sacrifice we offer you free us from our sins and bring together all who are joined by one baptism, to share this mystery of the Eucharist. Grant this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Preface of Baptism, or
Preface of Trinity Sunday**

Preface 25, or 13.

15. For the Ministry (Ember Days)

For use on the traditional days or at other times.

I. For those to be ordained

Collect

I. Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, who of thy divine providence hast appointed various orders in thy Church: Give thy grace, we humbly beseech thee, to all who are [now] called to any office and ministry for thy people; and so fill them with the truth of thy doctrine and clothe them with holiness of life, that they may faithfully serve before thee, to the glory of thy great Name and for the benefit of thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, in your divine providence you have appointed various orders in your Church: Give your grace, we humbly pray, to all who are [now] called to any office and ministry for your people; and so fill them with the truth of your doctrine and clothe them with holiness of life, that they may faithfully serve before you, to the glory of your great Name and for the benefit of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, accept our prayers and gifts. Give the Church more priests, and keep them faithful in their love and service. Grant this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of Apostles

Preface 20.

II. For the choice of fit persons for the ministry

Collect

I. O God, who didst lead thy holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place: Grant that thy Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and may uphold them in their work for the extension of thy kingdom; through him who is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

II. O God, you led your holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place: Grant that your Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and may uphold them in their work for the extension of your kingdom; through him who is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Father, your Son washed the feet of his disciples as an example to us. Accept our gifts and our worship; by offering ourselves as a spiritual sacrifice, may we be filled with the spirit of humility and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of the Season

III. For all Christians in their vocation

Collect

I. Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of thy faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before thee for all members of thy holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

I. Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

God of mercy, look on our offering, and by the power of this sacrament help all who believe in you to become the holy people you have called to be your own. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *Amen.*

Or this:

Father, you have given your Son to save the whole world by his sacrifice. By the power of this offering, help all your people to fill the world with the Spirit of Christ. Grant this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of the Season, or
Preface of Baptism

Preface 25.

16. For the Mission of the Church

Collect

I. O God, who hast made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after thee and find thee, bring the nations into thy fold, pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of thy kingdom; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Or this:

I. O God of all the nations of the earth: Remember the multitudes who have been created in thine image but have not known the redeeming work of our Savior Jesus Christ and grant that, by the prayers and labors of thy holy Church, they may be brought to know and worship thee as thou hast been revealed in thy Son; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

II. O God of all the nations of the earth: Remember the multitudes who have been created in your image but have not known the redeeming work of our Savior Jesus Christ, and grant that, by the prayers and labors of your holy Church, they may be brought to know and worship you as you have been revealed in your Son; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, look upon the face of Christ your Son, who gave up his life to set all men free. Through him may your name be praised among all peoples from East to West, and everywhere may one sacrifice be offered to give you glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of the Season, or

Preface of Pentecost

Preface 12.

The Collect for Independence Day may be used instead.

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father, you have given us in abundance that we might give you praise and serve all your people in love. Accept these gifts we bring for the salvation of all the world, and help us to live in love as you have commanded. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Or this:

Lord God, accept these gifts we bring to this altar; and teach us the wisdom of the gospel which leads to true justice and lasting peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of Trinity Sunday

Preface 13.

17. For the Nation

Collect

I. Lord God Almighty, who hast made all peoples of the earth for thy glory, to serve thee in freedom and peace: Grant to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with thy gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

II. Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

18. For Peace

Collect

I. O Almighty God, kindle, we beseech thee, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with thy wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity thy dominion may increase till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, may the saving sacrifice of your Son, our King and Peacemaker, which we offer through these sacramental signs of unity and peace, bring harmony and concord to all your children. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Or this, in time of war or civil disturbance:

Lord, remember Christ your son who is peace itself, and who has washed away our hatred with his blood. Because you love all men, look with mercy on us. Banish the violence and evil within us, and by this offering restore tranquillity and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of the Season

19. For Rogation Days

For use on the traditional days or at other times.

I. For fruitful seasons

Collect

I. Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that thy gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who constantly receive good things from thy hand, may always give thee thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

II. Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father, you provide the human race with food for strength, and with the Eucharist for its renewal; may these Gifts which we offer always bring us health of mind and body. Grant this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of the Season

II. For commerce and industry

Collect

I. Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with thy people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to thy will; and give to us all a pride in what we do, and a just return for our labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee; in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will; and give to us all a pride in what we do, and a just return for our labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, receive the gifts of your Church; and by the human labor we offer you, join us to the saving work of Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Preface of the Season

III. For stewardship of creation

Collect

I. O merciful Creator, whose hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us, we beseech thee, ever thankful for thy loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

II. O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, we offer you this sacrifice of praise for all you have given us, even though we are unworthy of your love. May we always use your many gifts to bring glory to your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of the Season

20. For the Sick

Collect

I. Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve thy sick servants, and give thy power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those (*or N., or NN.*) for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in thy loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those (*or N., or NN.*) for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father, your love guides every moment of our lives. Accept the prayers and gifts we offer for our sick brothers and sisters; restore them to health, and turn our anxiety for them into joy. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of the Season

The following postcommunion prayer may be used.

Postcommunion Prayer

Gracious Father, we give thee praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

21. For Social Justice

Collect

I. Almighty God, who hast created us in thine own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

II. Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father, by the sacrifice of Christ you freed your Church from sin and made it holy. May we, who are one with Christ, the head of the Church, be one with his offering; may we be united in serving you with all our hearts. Grant this in the name of Jesus the Lord. *Amen.*

For persecuted Christians:

Lord, accept the prayers and gifts we offer. May those who suffer persecution because of their faithful service to you rejoice in uniting their sacrifice to that of Christ your Son, and realize that their names are written in heaven among your chosen people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For refugees and exiles:

Lord, your Son gave his life to gather your scattered children into one family. May this sacrifice unite the hearts of all men in peace, and help us to grow in brotherly love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For those unjustly deprived of liberty:

Lord, we offer you the sacrament which saves the human race. May it release those unjustly deprived of liberty, and give them freedom of mind and heart for ever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of the Season

22. For Social Service

Collect

I. O Lord our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be ministered unto but to minister: Bless, we beseech thee, all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, the same thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

II. Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, we celebrate this memorial of the love of your Son. May his saving work bring salvation to the world through the ministry of your Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of the Season

23. For Education

Collect

- I. Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom: Enlighten by thy Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn, that, rejoicing in the knowledge of thy truth, they may worship thee and serve thee from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*
- II. Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom: Enlighten by your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn, that, rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, they may worship you and serve you from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, we offer you this sacrifice of praise for all you have given us, even though we are unworthy of your love. May we always use your many gifts to bring glory to your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of the Season

24. For Vocation in Daily Work

Collect

- I. Almighty God our heavenly Father, who declarest thy glory and showest forth thy handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us, we beseech thee, in our several occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work which thou givest us to do, in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one that serveth, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

- II. Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

God our Father, you provide the human race with food for strength and with the Eucharist for its renewal; may these Gifts which we offer always bring us health of mind and body. Grant this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Preface of the Season

25. *For Labor Day*

Collect

I. Almighty God, who hast so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

II. Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, receive the gifts of your Church; and by the human labor we offer you, join us to the saving work of Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Preface of the Season

HOLY BAPTISM

Concerning the Service

Baptism is the sacrament which is the gate to all other sacraments. It is necessary for salvation in fact or at least in intention, and is the means by which Christians are freed from sin, are reborn as children of God, and are incorporated into Christ's Body the Church. It is conferred validly only by the rite of immersion, or the rite of infusion or pouring, using true water and the required formula.

Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble.

The ordinary ministers of Baptism are bishops, priests, and deacons.

Holy Baptism is appropriately administered within the Eucharist as the chief service on a Sunday or other feast.

The Bishop, when present, is the celebrant; and is expected to preach the Word and preside at Baptism and the Eucharist. At Baptism, the bishop officiates at the Presentation and Examination of the Candidates; says the Thanksgiving over the Water; reads the prayer, "Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy spirit;" and officiates at what follows.

In the absence of a bishop, a priest is the celebrant and presides at the service.

Each candidate for Holy Baptism is to be sponsored by one or more baptized persons.

Sponsors of adults and older children present their candidates and thereby signify their endorsement of the candidates and their intention to support them by prayer and example in their Christian life.

Sponsors of infants, commonly called godparents, present their candidates, make promises in their own names, and also take vows on behalf of their candidates.

Parents and godparents are to be instructed in the meaning of Baptism, in their duties to help the new Christians grow in the knowledge and love of God, and in their responsibilities as members of his Church.

Additional Directions

Holy Baptism is especially appropriate at the Easter Vigil, on the Day of Pentecost, on All Saints' Day or the Sunday after All Saints' Day, and on the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (the First Sunday after the Epiphany). Nevertheless, the first consideration is the welfare of the person to be baptized. That person may not be deprived of the benefit of this sacrament; hence, for pastoral reasons baptism may be conferred at any time.

If on the four days listed above there are no candidates for Baptism, the renewal of Baptismal Vows may take the place of the Nicene Creed at the Eucharist.

If desired, the hymn Gloria in Excelsis may be sung immediately after the opening versicles and before the salutation,

The Lord be with you.

When the Bishop is present, or on other occasions for sufficient reason, the Collect (page 494) and one or more of the Lessons provided for use at Baptism may be substituted for the Proper of the Day.

Lay persons may act as readers, and it is appropriate for sponsors to be assigned this function. The petitions (page 534) may also be led by one of the sponsors.

The Nicene Creed is not used at this service.

If the Presentation of the Candidates does not take place at the font, then before or during the petitions (page 534), the ministers, candidates, and sponsors go to the font for the thanksgiving over the Water.

If the movement to the font is a formal procession, a suitable psalm such as Psalm 41, or a hymn or anthem may be sung.

Where practicable, the font is to be filled with clean water immediately before the Thanksgiving over the Water.

At the Thanksgiving over the water, and at the administration of Baptism, the celebrant, whenever possible, should face the people across the font, and the sponsors should be so grouped that the people may have a clear view of the action.

After the Baptism, a candle (which may be lighted from the Paschal Candle) may be given to each of the newly baptized or to a godparent.

It may be found desirable to move to the front of the church for the prayer, "We receive this Child (Person)" or "Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit," and the ceremonies that follow it. A suitable psalm, such as Psalm 23, or a hymn or anthem, may be sung during the procession.

The oblations of bread and wine at the baptismal Eucharist may be presented by the newly baptized or their godparents.

Conditional Baptism

If there is reasonable doubt that a person has been baptized with water, "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (which are the essential parts of Baptism), the person is baptized in the usual manner, but this form of words is used:

If you are not already baptized, N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Emergency Baptism

In case of emergency, any baptized person may administer Baptism according to the following form.

Using the given name of the one to be baptized (if known), pour water on him or her, saying:

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

The Lord's Prayer is then said.

Other prayers, such as the following, may be added.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin and have raised him to the new life of grace. Strengthen him, O Lord, with your presence, enfold him in the arms of your mercy, and keep him safe for ever.

The person who administers emergency Baptism should inform the priest of the appropriate parish, so that the fact can be properly registered.

If the baptized person recovers, the Baptism should be recognized at a public celebration of the Sacrament with a bishop or priest presiding, and the person baptized under emergency conditions, together with the sponsors or godparents, taking part in everything except the administration of the water.

Holy Baptism Rite One

When Baptism is to be administered at the Eucharist, the Rite follows directly after the homily.

The Minister of Baptism is vested in alb and white stole, or surplice and white stole. He may wear a cope.

The Minister says to the Godparents:

Hath this Child (Person) been already baptized, or no?

If they answer, No: then shall the Minister proceed as followeth.

Dearly beloved, forasmuch as our Savior Christ saith, None can enter into the kingdom of God, except he be regenerate and born anew of Water and of the Holy Ghost; I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteous mercy he will grant to *this Child (this Person)* that which by nature *he* cannot have; that *he* may be baptized with Water and the Holy Ghost, and received into Christ's holy Church and be made a living member of the same.

Then shall the Minister say,

Let us pray.

Almighty and immortal God, the aid of all who need, the helper of all who flee to thee for succor, the life of those who believe, and the resurrection of the dead; We call upon thee for *this Child (this thy Servant)*, that *he* coming to thy holy Baptism, may receive remission of sin, by spiritual regeneration. Receive *him*, O Lord, as thou hast promised by thy well-beloved Son, saying, Ask, and ye shall have; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. So give now unto us who ask; let us who seek, find; open the gate unto us who knock; that *this Child (this thy Servant)* may enjoy the everlasting benediction of thy heavenly washing, and may come to the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

When Baptism takes place at Mass, it follows the Homily and the following Gospel reading is omitted.

Hear the words of the Gospel, written by Saint Mark, in the tenth Chapter, at the thirteenth Verse.

They brought young children to Christ, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Or this:

Hear the words of the Gospel, written by Saint John, in the third Chapter, at the first Verse.

There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: the same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Or this:

Hear the words of the Gospel, written by Saint Matthew, in the twenty-eighth Chapter, at the eighteenth Verse.

Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

Then shall the Minister say:

And now, being persuaded of the good will of our heavenly Father toward this *Child (this Person)*, declared by his Son Jesus Christ; let us faithfully and devoutly give thanks unto him, and say,

Minister and People:

Almighty and everlasting God, heavenly Father, we give thee humble thanks, that thou hast vouchsafed to call us to the knowledge of thy grace, and faith in thee: increase this knowledge, and confirm this faith in us evermore. Give thy Holy Spirit to *this child (this thy Servant)*, that *he* may be born again, and be made *an heir* of everlasting salvation; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

For Children

When the Office is used for Children, the Minister shall speak unto the Godfathers and Godmothers on this wise.

Dearly beloved, ye have brought *this Child* here to be baptized; ye have prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would vouchsafe to receive *him*, to release *him* from sin, to sanctify *him* with the Holy Ghost, to give *him* the kingdom of heaven and everlasting life.

Dost thou, therefore, in the name of this Child, renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow, not be led by them?

Answer I renounce them all; and, by God's help, will endeavor not to follow, nor be led by them.

Minister Dost thou believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith, as contained in the Apostles' Creed?

Answer I do.

Minister Wilt thou be baptized in this Faith?

Answer That is my desire.

Minister Wilt thou then obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life?

Answer I will, by God's help.

Minister Having now, in the name of this Child, made these promises, wilt thou also on thy part take heed that this Child learn the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul's health?

Answer I will, by God's help.

Minister Wilt thou take heed that this Child, so soon as sufficiently instructed, be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him?

Answer I will, God being my helper.

For Adults

When the Office is used for Adults, the Minister shall address them on this wise, the Persons to be baptized answering the questions for themselves.

Well-beloved, you have come hither desiring to receive holy Baptism. We have prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would vouchsafe to receive you, to release you from sin, to sanctify you with the holy Ghost, to give you the kingdom of heaven, and everlasting life.

Dost thou renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow, nor be led by them?

Answer I renounce them all; and, by God's help, will endeavor not to follow, nor be led by them.

Minister Dost thou believe in Jesus the Christ, the Son of the living God?

Answer I do.

Minister Dost thou accept him, and desire to follow him as thy Savior and Lord?

Answer I do.

Minister Dost thou believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith, as contained in the Apostles' Creed?

Answer I do.

Minister Wilt thou be baptized in this Faith?

Answer That is my desire.

Minister Wilt thou then obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life?

Answer I will, by God's help.

Then shall the Minister say,

O merciful God, grant that like as Christ died and rose again, so *this Child (this thy Servant)* may die to sin and rise to newness of life. *Amen.*

Grant that all sinful affections may die in *him*, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *him*. *Amen.*

Grant that *he* may have power and strength to have victory, and to triumph, against the devil, the world, and the flesh. *Amen.*

Grant that whosoever is here dedicated to thee by our office and ministry, may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly rewarded, through thy mercy, O blessed Lord God, who dost live, and govern all things, world without end. *Amen.*

Minister The Lord be with you,

Answer And with thy spirit.

Minister Lift up your hearts.

Answer We lift them up unto the Lord.

Minister Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Answer It is meet and right so to do.

Then the Minister shall say,

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, for that thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins, did shed out of his most precious side both water and blood; and gave commandment to his disciples, that they should go teach all nations, and baptize them In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Regard, we beseech thee, the supplications of thy congregation; sanctify ~~th~~ this water to the mystical washing away of sin; and grant that *this Child (this thy Servant)*, now to be baptized therein, may receive the fullness of thy grace, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful children; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and evermore. *Amen.*

Then the Minister shall take the Child into his arms, and shall say to the Godfathers and Godmothers,

Name this Child.

And then, naming the Child after them, he shall dip him in the Water discretely, or shall pour Water upon him, saying,

N, I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

BUT NOTE. That if the Person to be baptized be an Adult, the Minister shall take him by the hand, and shall ask the Witnesses the Name; and then shall dip him in the Water, or pour Water upon him, using the same form of words.

Then the Minister shall say,

We receive *this Child (Person)* into the congregation of Christ's flock; and do

Here the Minister shall make a Cross upon the Child's (or Person's) forehead.

sign *him* with the sign of the Cross, in token that hereafter *he* shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and manfully to fight under his banner, against sin, the world, and the devil; and to continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto *his* life's end. *Amen.*

Then shall the Minister anoint the baptized on the crown of the head saying,

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath regenerated thee by Water and the Holy Ghost, and hath given unto thee remission of all thy sins, vouchsafe to anoint thee with the Unction of his Holy Spirit, and bring thee to the inheritance of everlasting life. *Amen.*

Then shall the Minister say,

Seeing now, dearly beloved brethren, that *this Child (this Person)* is regenerate, and grafted into the body of Christ's Church, let us give thanks unto Almighty God for these benefits; and with one accord make our prayers unto him, that *this Child (this Person)* may lead the rest of his life according to this beginning.

Then shall be said,

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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, and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Then shall the Minister say:

We yield thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that it hath pleased thee to regenerate *this Child (this thy Servant)* with thy Holy Spirit, to receive *him* for thine own *Child*, and to incorporate *him* into thy holy Church. And humbly we beseech thee to grant, that *he*, being dead unto sin, may live unto righteousness, and being buried with Christ in his death, may also be partaker of his resurrection; so that finally, with the residue of thy holy Church, *he* may be an *inheritor* of thine everlasting kingdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then the Minister shall add:

The Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named; Grant you to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that, Christ dwelling in your hearts by faith, ye may be filled with all the fullness of God. Amen.

Private Baptism

When, in consideration of extreme sickness, necessity may require, then the following form shall suffice:

The Child (or Person) being named by some one who is present, the Minister shall pour Water upon him, saying these words:

N., I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

After which shall be said the Lord's Prayer, and the Thanksgiving from this office, beginning, We yield thee hearty thanks, etc.

BUT NOTE. That in the case of an Adult, the Minister shall first ask the questions provided in this Office for the Baptism of Adults.

In cases of extreme sickness, or any imminent peril, if a Minister cannot be procured, then any baptized person present may administer holy Baptism, using the foregoing form. Such Baptism shall be promptly reported to the Parish authorities.

The Receiving of One Privately Baptized.

It is expedient that a Child or Person so baptized be afterward brought to the Church, at which time these parts of the foregoing service shall be used.

The Gospel, the Questions (omitting the question Wilt thou be baptized in this Faith? and the answer thereto), the Declaration, We receive this Child (or Person), etc., and the remainder of the office.

Conditional Baptism

If there be reasonable doubt whether any person was baptized with Water In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, (which are essential parts of Baptism), such person may be baptized in the form before appointed in this Office, saving that, at the immersion or the pouring of water, the Minister shall use this form of words:

If thou art not already baptized, N., I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Holy Baptism

Rite Two

The Minister of Baptism is vested in alb and white stole, or surplice and white stole. He may wear a cope.

A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.

The People standing, the Celebrant says:

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom,

now and for ever. Amen.

In place of the above, from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost:

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

In Lent and on other penitential occasions:

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People His mercy endures for ever.

The Celebrant then continues:

There is one Body and one Spirit;

People There is one hope in God's call to us;

Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People One God and Father of all.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

The People respond:

Amen.

At the principal service on a Sunday or other feast, the Collect and Lessons are properly those of the Day. On other occasions they are selected from "At Baptism." (See Additional Directions, page 517.)

The Lessons

The People sit.

One or two Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying

A Reading (Lesson) from ...

A citation giving chapter and verse may be added.

After each Reading, the Reader may say:

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

or the Reader may say:

Here ends the Reading (Epistle).

Silence may follow.

A Psalm, hymn, or anthem may follow each Reading.

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel, the Reader says:

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Or the Sermon may be preached after the Peace.

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

The Celebrant says:

The Candidate(s) for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Adults and Older Children

The candidates who are able to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Sponsors, as follows

Sponsor I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Celebrant asks each candidate when presented:

Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate I do.

Infants and Younger Children

Then the candidates unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows:

Parents and Godparents

I present N. to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

When all have been presented, the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents:

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.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children:

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

Answer I renounce them.

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

Answer I renounce them.

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

Answer I renounce them.

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

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

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

Answer I do.

When there are others to be presented, the Bishop says:

The other Candidate(s) will now be presented.

Presenters I present these persons for Confirmation.

Or this:

I present these persons who desire to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

The Bishop asks the candidates:

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Answer I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Answer I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Celebrant addresses the congregation, saying:

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People We will.

The Celebrant then says these or similar words:

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, died, 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 (this person) who have renewed *their* commitment to Christ.]

A Person appointed leads the following petitions:

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 to 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 for ever. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying:

People The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues:

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 here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever 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 for ever. *Amen.*

The Baptism

Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses, or 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.*

When this action has been completed for all candidates, the Bishop or Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, 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.*

Then the Bishop or Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross using Chrism, and saying to each one:

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as members of his body, sharing everlasting life. *Amen.*

Or this action may be done immediately after the administration of the water and before the preceding prayer.

When all have been baptized, the 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.

If Confirmation or the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows is not to follow, the Peace is now exchanged.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

At the Eucharist

The service then continues with the Prayers of the People or the Offertory of the Eucharist, at which the Bishop, when present, should be the principal Celebrant.

Except on Principal Feasts, the Proper Preface of Baptism (Preface 25) may be used.

Alternative Ending

If there is no celebration of the Eucharist, the service continues with the Lord's Prayer.

The Celebrant then says:

All praise and thanks to you, most merciful Father, for adopting us as your own children, for incorporating us into your holy Church, and for making us worthy to share in the inheritance of the saints in light; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Alms may be received and presented, and other prayers may be added, concluding with this prayer:

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named, grant you to be strengthened with might by his Holy Spirit, that, Christ dwelling in your hearts by faith, you may be filled with all the fullness of God. *Amen.*

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, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Or this:

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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. *Amen.*

HOLY MATRIMONY

Concerning the Service

The Sacrament of Marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a baptized man and woman in the presence of God.

Marriage is celebrated in the presence of the Bishop, the Pastor, or a priest or deacon delegated by either of them. The Canon Law and Diocesan norms regarding the celebration of marriage are to be observed.

It is desirable that the Lessons from the Old Testament and the Epistles be read by lay persons.

In the opening exhortation (at the symbol of N.), the full names of the persons to be married are declared. Subsequently, only their Christian names are used.

General Rubrics

1. If the Banns are published, they shall be read on three Sundays or holy days, at Mass, the people being present, and shall be in the following form:

I publish the Banns of Marriage between N. of (...) and N. of (...). If any of you know just cause, or just impediment, why these two persons should not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, ye are to declare it. This is the first (second, or third) time of asking.

2. If two or more marriages are celebrated at the one service, the scrutiny, the exchange of vows, and the giving and receiving of rings shall be said individually for each couple, and the question *Who giveth this Woman*, when used, shall likewise be asked individually. The remainder, including the Nuptial Blessing, is said but once, the plural form being used.

3. The pastor of the proper parish or a duly delegated priest or deacon is to officiate, and the appropriate Canons (CIC 1983) and Diocesan norms are to be followed.
4. When a Priest cannot officiate, a Deacon who has been duly delegated by the Bishop or Priest may officiate, using the form for the Solemnization apart from Mass.
5. There shall be at least two witnesses to the marriage.
6. A hymn, psalm or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music played, as the Man and Woman and their attendants approach the altar or depart therefrom.

7. If there be a procession to the altar, the ministers, then the Priest, shall be first. Then shall come: either the Man then the Woman, each with attendants; or the Man and the Woman together, with attendants.

8. The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage may be used with any authorized liturgy for the Holy Eucharist. This service then replaces the Ministry of the Word, and the Eucharist begins with the Offertory.

9. After the Declaration of Consent, if there is to be a giving in marriage, or presentation, the Celebrant asks,

Who gives (presents) this woman to be married to this man?

or the following:

Who presents this woman and this man to be married to each other?

To either question, the appropriate answer is, "I do." If more than one person responds, they do so together.

10. For the Ministry of the Word it is fitting that the man and woman to be married remain where they may conveniently hear the reading of Scripture. They may approach the Altar, either for the exchange of vows or for the Blessing of the Marriage.

11. It is appropriate that all remain standing until the conclusion of the Collect. Seating may be provided for the wedding party, so that all may be seated for the Lessons and the homily.

12. The Apostles' Creed may be recited after the Lessons, or after the homily, if there be one.

13. When desired, some other suitable symbol of the vows may be used in place of the ring.

14. At the Offertory, it is desirable that the bread and wine be presented to the ministers by the newly married persons. They may then remain before the Lord's Table and receive Holy Communion before other members of the congregation.

According to older customs and usage:

— In churches with liturgical choir between the sanctuary and nave, Admonition and Scrutiny may be held at the chancel steps. In churches without liturgical choir, the Man and Woman stand near

the entrance of the sanctuary, and, without attendants, may enter to kneel in the sanctuary for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

— When the rite takes place at Mass, the Priest wears Mass vestments; otherwise, he is vested in surplice and stole. The cope may be worn throughout for the rite except during Mass for which he changes to the Chasuble.

— Holy water may be used for sprinkling the ring or rings and at the Blessing of the newly-married.

— At the delivery of the ring, the Man may place the ring on the thumb of the Bride's left hand as he says *In the Name of the Father*, then over the index finger as he says *and of the Son*, over the next finger as he says *and of the Holy Ghost*, and then on her ring finger as he says, *Amen*.

— When the Priest joins the right hands of the Husband and Wife, he may wrap the end of his stole around the joined hands as he proclaims, *Those whom God hath joined*, etc.

Holy Matrimony

Rite One

The Admonition and Scrutiny

At the day and time appointed for Solemnization of Matrimony, the Persons to be married shall come into the body of the Church, with their friends and neighbors; and there standing together, the Man on the right hand, and the Woman on the left, the Minister shall say:

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the face of this company, to join together this Man and this Woman in holy Matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted of God, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and his Church: which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence and first miracle that he wrought in Cana of Galilee, and is commended of Saint Paul to be honorable among all men: and therefore is not by any to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly; but reverently, discreetly, advisedly, soberly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined. If any man can show just cause, why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter for ever hold his peace.

And also speaking unto the Persons who are to be married, he shall say:

I require and charge you both, as ye will answer at the dreadful day of judgment when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know any impediment why ye may not be lawfully joined together in Matrimony ye do now confess it. For be ye well assured, that if any persons are joined together otherwise than as God's Word doth allow, their marriage is not lawful.

The Minister, if he shall have reason to doubt of the lawfulness of the proposed Marriage, may demand sufficient surety for his indemnification: but if no impediment shall be alleged, or suspected, the Minister shall say to the Man:

N., wilt thou have this Woman to thy wedded wife to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honor, and keep her in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?

The Man shall answer:

I will.

Then shall the Minister say unto the Woman,

N., wilt thou have this Man to thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of Matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honor, and keep him in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

The Woman shall answer,

I will.

Then may the Minister say,

Who giveth this Woman to be married to this Man?

The Minister may receive the woman at her father's or friend's hand.

He may answer:

I do (or We do).

The Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Word shall follow. A homily may be delivered after the Gospel.

The Exchange of Vows

Then shall they give their troth to each other in this manner.

Following the homily (or the Gospel, if there be no homily), all standing, the Minister shall cause the Man with his right hand to take the Woman by her left hand, and to say after him as followeth,

I N. take thee N. to my wedded Wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

Then shall they loose their hands; and the Woman with her right hand taking the Man by his right hand, shall likewise say after the Minister,

I N. take thee N. to my wedded Husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I give thee my troth.

Then shall they again loose their hands. The Ring or Rings shall be delivered to the Priest who shall bless the same, saying,

Bless, O Lord, this Ring, that he who gives it and she who wears it may abide in thy peace, and continue in thy favor, unto their life's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or this:

Bless, O Lord, these Rings, that they who give and receive them may abide in thy peace, and continue in thy favor, unto their life's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Minister taking the Ring shall deliver it unto the Man, to put it upon the fourth finger of the Woman's left hand. And the Man holding the Ring there, and taught by the Minister, shall say,

With this Ring I thee wed: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Likewise, the Woman may receive the Ring for the Bridegroom, and put it on her Husband's ring finger, saying,

With this Ring I thee wed: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Then shall the Minister join their right hands together, and say,

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

Then shall the Minister speak unto the People,

Forasmuch as N. and N. have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth, each to the other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving a Ring (or Rings), and by joining hands; I pronounce that they are Man and Wife, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Liturgy of the Eucharist shall follow.

The Prayers of the People may be said.

The Kiss of Peace is given not in its usual place, but before the Postcommunion Prayer (p. 547).

At the Offertory the newly married Persons may present the bread and the wine.

The Proper Preface for a Marriage is to be said on those days when the Ritual Mass of Marriage is permitted.

Nuptial Blessing

After the Lord's Prayer, the Priest, facing the Husband and Wife, shall say,

O eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life; Send thy blessing upon these thy servants, this man and this woman, whom we Æ bless in thy Name; that they, living faithfully together, may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, whereof this Ring (or these Rings) given and received is a token (or are tokens) and pledge, and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, who hast so consecrated the state of Matrimony that in it is represented the spiritual marriage and unity betwixt Christ and his Church; Look mercifully upon these thy servants, that they may love, honor, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and of peace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

And the Priest may add:

O Almighty God, Creator of mankind, who only art the wellspring of life; Bestow upon these thy servants, if it be thy will, the gift and heritage of children; and grant that they may see their children brought up in thy faith and fear, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the People,

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Postcommunion Prayer

In the place of the usual postcommunion prayer, the following is said:

O God, the giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious: we give thee thanks for binding us together in these holy mysteries of the Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ. Grant that by thy Holy Spirit, N. and N., now joined in Holy Matrimony, may become one in heart and mind, live in fidelity and peace, and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love thee; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Blessing at the Close of Mass

Immediately before the Blessing of the People, the Priest, facing the Bridegroom and Bride, the Man and Woman kneeling, shall bless them, saying,

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, ☩ bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that ye may so live together in this life, that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. *Amen.*

If Matrimony be solemnized apart from the Mass, all shall be done as above until the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In the stead thereof shall be said the Lord's Prayer, the Nuptial Blessing, and the Blessing at the Close of Mass.

Holy Matrimony

Rite Two

At the time appointed, the persons to be married, with their witnesses assemble in the church or some other appropriate place.

During their entrance, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

Then the Celebrant, facing the People and the persons to be married, with the woman to the right and the man to the left, addresses the congregation and says:

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commands it to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union N. and N. now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

Then the Celebrant says to the persons to be married:

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

The Declaration of Consent

The Celebrant says to the woman:

N., will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

The Woman answers:

I will.

The Celebrant says to the man:

N., will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The Man answers:

I will.

The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying:

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

The People respond:

We will.

If there is to be a presentation or a giving in marriage, it takes place at this time.

A hymn, psalm, or anthem may follow.

The Ministry of the Word

The Celebrant then says to the People:

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Celebrant:

Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Then one (or more) of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. If there is to be a Eucharist, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings.

Genesis 1:26-28 (Male and female he created them)

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24 (A man cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh)

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7 (Many waters cannot quench love)

Tobit 8:5b-8 (New English Bible) (That she and I may grow old together)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love is patient and kind)

Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Father from whom every family is named)

Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33 (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)

Colossians 3:12-17 (Love which binds everything together in harmony)

1 John 4:7-16 (Let us love one another, for love is of God)

Between the Readings, a psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said. Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128.