

Baptismal Form for Infants

Preface

As we prepare to come into the presence of Almighty God to worship Him, we come as those made clean through the washing which He Himself has provided.

That is why we have gathered to baptize *before* our worship service. In the New Testament, we never find baptism as part of the worship service; this is true to a biblical pattern set from the beginning. Under the old covenant, one was not circumcised or washed in the tabernacle or temple; rather, it was circumcision and then the various washings which qualified God's people to *enter* the tabernacle and temple.

And so it is for us under the new covenant: baptism qualifies us to come into God's presence in worship, as His people.

Therefore, God receives and cleanses this child [*or*: these chosen ones] in baptism today, in order that He might call him [*or*: /her/them] into His presence, as part of His worshipping people.

Introduction

Our Lord commanded His Church to disciple the nations, baptizing them into the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.¹ Thus Peter tells us that baptism saves² - not because of the power of the water by which we baptize, but by virtue of the grace of the God who gives Himself to us in baptism.

God the Father gives Himself to us in baptism, including us in His family and marking us out as His children.³

God the Son gives Himself to us in baptism, that we may be united to Him in His death,⁴ sprinkled with His blood for the remission of our sins; and united to Him in His resurrection, being made partakers of His glorious life.⁵

God the Spirit gives Himself to us in baptism, becoming for us the seal and down payment of our inheritance,⁶ assuring us that we have been made heirs of the new heavens and new earth of the age to come, and binding us to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Baptism therefore, is not our work, but the work of God, who gives Himself to us by His gracious covenant.

Yet, as in all covenants there are two parts, so when God gives Himself to us in baptism, He binds us to Himself and obliges us to a new obedience carried out by faith and the power of His Spirit.

¹ Matthew 28.19.

² 1 Peter 3.21.

³ Galatians 3.26-27.

⁴ Romans 6.3-4.

⁵ Romans 6.4-5.

⁶ Ephesians 1.13-14.

Inquiry

[Mr and Mrs] _____, you have been called to this faith and new obedience by the covenant God has made with you in holy baptism. He has promised to be God to you and to your children after you; do you therefore promise to command your children and your household to keep His way by doing righteousness and justice, so that He may fulfill all His gracious promises to you?⁷

Answer: We do, with the help of the Holy Spirit and the grace of Christ.

Presentation

[To parents:]

This therefore is the covenant which God calls you to keep this day:⁸ according to faith in God's gracious promise, your child shall receive the seal of His covenant.

Baptism

_____, I baptize you into the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to our God for His grace:

Heavenly Father, thank you that, even as You saved Noah's household from a world under judgment through the great waters upon the earth, You have saved our households through Your mighty promises in holy baptism. We praise You for the life of this little one [/these chosen ones], and we praise You for the life of Your Son, in which this little one [/these], and all Your chosen people, have been made to share by grace.

We pray that by Your grace, this child [these chosen ones], and each of us, would cleave to You, the One God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; trust in You; love You with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength; forsake the world, put to death the deeds of the body; and walk in newness of life.

To You alone be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Genesis 18.19.

⁸ Cf. Genesis 17.10.