

Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain

An Ecumenical Service of Baptism and Confirmation

Notes

Authorisation

This order for Baptism and Confirmation has been prepared by the Joint Liturgical Group at the request of Churches Together in England and is offered for the approval and use of those responsible for such a service in a Local Ecumenical Partnership.

This service is also appropriate for use in schools, chaplaincies in higher education and prisons.

At its meeting in May 2014 the House of Bishops agreed to commend this liturgy for use pursuant to the terms set out in Canon B 44 "Of local ecumenical projects" of the Canons of the Church of England.

Preparations

The questions, preparations and preliminaries to Baptism and Confirmation should take place according to the customs of each of the participating Christian churches.

Baptism

At the beginning of The Thanksgiving Over the Water the candidates go to the baptistery or gather round the font and water is poured into the font in the sight of the people.

Oil and Signing with the Cross

A signing with pure olive oil and the cross, reflecting athletes' preparations before a contest, may take place at the end of the Decision.

If there is no Signing with the Cross at the Decision, it should take place immediately after the Baptism, but should not be confused with the Baptism itself. Appropriate words are provided in the text of the service.

If the baptism proceeds immediately to confirmation the anointing and signing are omitted.

Oil mixed with fragrant spices (traditionally called chrism) expressing the messianic era and the abundance of the Holy Spirit may accompany the laying on of hands. This chrism oil is normally consecrated by the bishop.

Seasonal Variations

Customary changes in the text may be made to reflect the season of the Church's year.

Presidency

The presiding minister needs to be agreed upon in the early planning of this service.

Where a bishop is present s/he need not be the presiding Minister but s/he should always lay his/her hands on candidates for Confirmation and may join in the words and Prayer of Confirmation with the presiding minister.

Where the rubrics do not specify 'bishop' or 'presiding minister', then any authorized minister may take part.

If the bishop does not preside over the Liturgy of Initiation, s/he may preside at the Eucharist.

Structure

Preparation

- The Greeting
- Introduction
- The Collect

The Liturgy of the Word

- Readings
- Gospel Reading
- Sermon

The Liturgy of Initiation

- Presentation of the Candidates
- The Decision
- Signing with the Cross †
- Profession of Faith
- Baptism
 - *Signing with the Cross †*
- Thanksgiving over the Water
- Confirmation
- Welcome into the Fellowship of Faith
- Commissioning
- Peace

The Liturgy of Communion

- Preparation of the Table
- Taking of the Bread and Wine
- The Eucharistic Prayer
- The Lord's Prayer
- Breaking of Bread
- Giving of Communion
- Post Communion Prayer

The Sending Out

- The Blessing
- Giving of a Lighted Candle
- The Dismissal

Preparation

The Greeting

The presiding minister welcomes the congregation and then says:

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.**

A hymn may be sung

Introduction

The presiding minister says:

Sisters and brothers, by grace,
through the sign and seal of Baptism,
and in the power of the Holy Spirit,
we become God's people, the Church.
In Confirmation we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit
that we may remain in Christ for ever
as his faithful servants and witnesses.

The Collect

Let us pray:

Living God,
may all who are baptized into Christ
be sustained by the Holy Spirit,
that through lives of faith and love
your grace may be known
and your name honoured;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

A passage from Scripture is read.

At the end of it the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

A hymn may be sung

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

A reading from the Gospel according to N.

Hear the Gospel of Christ.

All: **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

The gospel is read.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Sermon

A hymn may be sung

The Liturgy of Initiation

Presentation of the Candidates

The candidates may be presented to the congregation by name. Where appropriate, they may be presented by their godparents or sponsors.

The presiding minister asks those who are candidates for baptism.

Do you seek faith and life in Christ in baptism?

I do.

Testimony by the candidates may follow.

The presiding minister addresses the whole congregation

People of God,
will you welcome these candidates
and uphold them in their life in Christ?

All We will, with the help of God.

The Decision

The candidates together with any of their godparents or sponsors stand at the entrance to the church with their backs to font and the sanctuary, facing 'the west'.

The presiding minister addresses all the candidates.

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.
Therefore I ask:

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

The candidates together with any of their godparents or sponsors turn to 'the east'

Signing with the Cross

Candidates may be signed with the cross. Pure olive oil may be used.

When all the candidates for baptism have been signed, the presiding minister says to them

(I anoint you with oil for the journey of faith.)

May God who has given you the desire
to follow Christ give you strength
to continue in the Way.

Amen.

Profession of Faith

A minister addresses the congregation

Let us affirm, together with these who are being baptized,
our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All: I believe and trust in God the Father.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All: I believe and trust in God the Son.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All: I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Procession to the Font

The candidates together with any of their godparents or sponsors are led by the presiding minister to the font.

A hymn may be sung

Thanksgiving over the Water

The presiding minister stands at the font and says:

God our Father, we thank you
for the sustaining and cleansing gifts of water
and for the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.

From the beginning
your grace has been made known
through water and the Spirit.
Your Spirit moved over the waters at creation
and you led your people to
freedom through a parted sea.
In the fullness of time you sent Jesus.
He was baptized in the waters of the Jordan
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

He passed through the deep waters of death and lives for evermore.
He offers living water
and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The presiding minister may extend her/his hands over the water.

Pour out your Holy Spirit that those/the one
baptized in this water may die to sin,
be raised with Christ,
and be born to new life in the family
of your Church.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Baptism

The presiding minister immerses each candidate in the water, or pours water on them, saying

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

All: **Amen.**

To each candidate the bishop or presiding minister says.

By Baptism, God has received you into the Church.

If there was no signing of the cross at the Decision, the bishop or presiding minister may sign the newly baptized with the sign of the cross saying:

N, I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

If the baptism proceeds immediately to confirmation the anointing and signing are omitted.

A hymn is sung, during which the newly baptised may be clothed with a white robe and a minister may then say:

You have been clothed with Christ.

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Confirmation

The presiding minister and the bishop, if present, and all the candidates for confirmation gather at the place of confirmation.

All the ministers stands before those who are to be confirmed, and the bishop, if present, says

**All: Our help is in the name of the Lord
who has made heaven and earth.**

**All: Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and for ever. Amen.**

The ministers extend their hands towards those to be confirmed and one of them says

Almighty and ever-living God,
you have given these your servants
new birth in baptism by water and the Spirit,
and have forgiven them all their sins.
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.

All: Amen.

The presiding minister says to each candidate:

**N, God has called you by name
and made you his own.**

The presiding minister and the bishop, if present, then each lay hands on the head of that candidate, saying together

**Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

A minister may anoint those who have been confirmed with the oil of chrism, saying:

**N, you are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

The Welcome into the Fellowship of Faith

The ministers, with representatives of the local church, extend the hand of fellowship to those who have been baptized and confirmed.

One of the Ministers invites the congregation to pray for all the candidates.

**All: Defend, O Lord, these your servants
with your heavenly grace,
that they may continue yours for ever,
and daily increase in them your Holy Spirit
more and more until they come
to your everlasting kingdom.
Amen.**

The Commissioning

The presiding minister says to the newly confirmed.

All who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.

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

I will, with the help of God.

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

I will, with the help of God.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in
Christ?

I will, with the help of God.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

I will, with the help of God.

In the name of Christ will you pray for the world and its people,
defend the weak,
and seek justice and peace?

I will, with the help of God.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All Amen.

The Peace

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us
and, as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

A hymn may be sung

The Liturgy of Communion

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The bishop or presiding minister invites the people to give thanks and praise to God.

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right,
It is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word;
through whom you have created all things
from the beginning,
and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us
from the slavery to sin,
giving him to be born of a woman
and to die upon the cross;
you raised him from the dead
and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us
your holy and life-giving Spirit,
and made us a people for your own possession.

Therefore with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
[Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.]**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example
and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
who, in the night that he was betrayed
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
'Take, eat; this is my body,
which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper,
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of his kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial
of Christ your Son our Lord.

**All: Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All: **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us:

All **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**

(or)

As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray:

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

Amen

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

The bread is broken for the life of the world.

All: Lord, unite us in this sign.

These words may be used as the bread is broken

**All: Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

The president invites the people to receive communion.

Holy Communion is given first to those newly baptized and confirmed.

Customary words of distribution are used and the communicant replies

Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

**All We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste
of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

The Sending Out

The Blessing

The bishop or presiding minister may use a seasonal blessing, or

God the Father, through whose glory
Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you by his life-giving Spirit;
to walk with him in the paths of righteousness and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

A hymn may be sung

Giving of a Lighted Candle

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized and confirmed who may carry it in the final procession.

When all have received a candle the presiding minister says.

Receive this light,
for you belong to Christ, the Light of the world.

**All: Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.**

The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.