

Baby Blessing #8

Traditional Baptism in the name of Jesus Christ with water and oil.



This Baby Blessing Ceremony is a Christian Baptism that includes an Anointing of Oil element as well as the Candle Lighting element. This Baby Blessing puts an emphasis on Jesus Christ.

Greeting



Officiant:

Dearly beloved, we are honored with the privilege of being present here today to witness and support in faith the christening of _____; the son/daughter of ____ and ____ born into this world on _____ 201__.

You have been invited here as family and friends and your prayers and spiritual support in _____'s life have been requested. It has been said that in a Christening, Heaven comes down and surrounds the child with God's love for which the effect is lifelong. We join our thoughts and sincere goodwill, asking that Christ's peace might embrace this family and an arc of God's light surround _____ for all of his days.

Jesus said:

“Let the little children come unto me and forbid them not; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”



Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ instructs us that all should come to faith with the eyes and heart of a child. Today, we dedicate _____ to Our God in this Christening. In Jesus Christ, we are set free of the punishment of sin and oppression of law. By grace in faith we are forgiven and assured eternal life.

Jesus gave unto us two great commandments, which we should strive in heart and mind to obey. Both are of Love. To love God with all our hearts, and to love others as we would have others love us. These two things our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ commands of us.

Invocation

Officiant:

Let us pray

Heavenly Father, we ask for Your Blessing here today. Protect our family and community and surround us with your infinite unconditional love. Keep us mindful that the miracle of new life is both a gift and path back to you. We ask that our sense of community be strengthened by what we are about to witness here today. Amen.

(This is a good place to add a poem or reading-acknowledge loved one are no longer with us but here in spirit)

Charge to Parents:

Officiant:

___ and ___ will you teach _____ the truth that from this moment he may realize his unity with God and of Christian doctrine, the gospel ministry and of the salvation by grace through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Will you try to conduct your own life so that by both word and example, _____ may learn to live joyously and harmoniously with Christian principle and the assurance of salvation - will you strive to do this to the best of your ability?

Parents respond: We Will

Charge To Godparents

Officiant:

_____ and _____, as Godparents to _____, God will give you the wisdom and ability to hold within your heart forever his spiritual welfare. You are charged with the responsibility of seeing to the spiritual welfare of this child should the need arise and it is you who stands as spiritual counselors.

Do you accept this duty and charge?

Godparents: respond: We do.

Do you promise to love, honor, support and encourage _____ throughout his life?

Godparents: respond: We do.

Christening of Name

Officiant:

What name have you chosen for this child?

Parents answer: _____

So be it. We christen you _____ in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. I christen you that you may know the pure and holy spirit of God, your eternal source of faith. May you come to know God within your heart all the days of your life and express your highest potential in Christian service.



Baptism

(For the Baptism Godmother will hold Child and with water the Officiant will first make the sign of the cross on the child's forehead) I baptize you _____ in the name of the Father; In the name of the Son; and in the name of the Holy Spirit; Amen.

Mother will first make the sign of the cross on Child's forehead, then Godmother will pass Child to mother, then father, and then each Godparent, shall each in turn make the sign of the cross on Child's forehead and repeat after the Officiant:

In the name of the Father;
of the Son;
and the Holy Spirit;
Amen.

I would like to share a reading from John 3:8

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:8

(-this part is optional)

So beautiful and poetic are those phrases from John 3:8, they are the words of Jesus, when teaching Nicodemus about being "born again", which to me means that we "die" unto ourselves, we let go of resistance of the things we wish were different and just trust God.

A broader context relates to baptisms and the symbolism of the water as well.

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3: 5-8)

Let us pray.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secret is kept, we place ourselves under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Grant us and this child now dedicated to you, our Lord God and Heavenly Father, a clear understanding of the duties and obligations we now assume.

We pray for the care and protection of _____ in body and soul. We surrender him to

your hands. Please, Dear Heavenly Father, bind your angels to bless and attend him always. May his heart grow strong, may he love patiently, and may he do what is good and holy in your eyes. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

_____, as a child of the covenant, receive this blessing. In Baptism you are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever and ever. Amen.

Anointing of Oil



Officiant:

Throughout the Bible, Old and New Testament, anointing with oil was an act in recognition of wealth, prominence, inheritance and position. Yet in the anointing of Christ before his death on the cross, we were shown the true measure of possession, inheritance and wealth is not found by worldly measures.

_____, having now been dedicated into the Kingdom of God, Your family and I will now anoint thee with all the wealth you now possess as one in the Kingdom of God - the power and majesty of our Lord God; the unlimited and sacrificial love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the spiritual wisdom and assurance of the Holy Spirit; and of your great inheritance - life everlasting in the paradise of heaven - of perfect peace, harmony and joy. No man or woman could possess more than this.

Officiant will anoint Child's chest In the name of the Father; of the Son; and the Holy Spirit; Amen. Then the Godmother then Mother will pass Child to Godmother then

father, godfather, and grandparents will anoint Child in the name of the Father, of the Son; and the Holy Spirit.

Candle Ceremony

You can have two candles just Godparents or four candles Godparents and parents. (There is a candle/taper for each parent and or Godparent, and a center candle for Child There is a small, lit candle for the lighting of the candles. The Officiant shall say)

In Christian worship traditionally, the lighting of candles has many spiritual meanings. The light of candle represents the light of a person's life. The flame represents the eternal truth of God. The light shining forth represents God's truth shining forth upon the world. For believers to collectively light a candle, represents the sharing and fellowship of faith; and traditionally represents the unity of the individual believers with Christ and the body of believers of Christianity, both in this world and in heaven.

I ask each Godparent and each parent to take one of the candles and light this candle. Then, together, light the center candle for _____, as the light of his life. I ask that at the conclusion of this service, each of you keep your candle for this reason: Should there be a time in _____'s future for which he faces difficult times of trial, or be called upon to make grave decisions - of hardship or joy, or become lost in spirit - you should, as the duty and obligation you have assumed today - find a quiet place alone to yourself. Light this candle or another and through pray ask for the safekeeping of _____ in both body and soul from our Heavenly Father, the revelation of grace and salvation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the spiritual guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Hear the words of Our Lord, Jesus Christ:

All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of time. (Matt. 28 18-20)

_____, from this day onward, no matter how dark the world may seem nor how alone and lost you may feel, you shall never be alone again, never without hope or assurance of final victory.

Closing Words

Officiant:

The Lord will Bless you and Keep you;
make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;
Lift his Countenance unto you and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

