

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

INTRODUCTION

In baptism,

God names us as God's own beloved children;

God promises to be our God

and welcomes us into the family of Christ;

God makes Christ's death and resurrection for us

present to us and at work in us.

The baptism of believers' children especially makes visible the prevenient nature of grace—

that God reaches out to, and accepts, us

before we reach out to, and accept, God.

At the same time, in baptism,

we acknowledge for ourselves and our children

the gift and claim of God's grace,

and we commit ourselves and our children

to live out of God's grace as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Thus, baptism marks the birth, at any age,

of a disciple of Jesus Christ.

PRESENTATION

Who is presented for baptism?

Joseph Delcambre Miers

Son of Josh and Doise Miers

PARENTS' RE-AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Because the role of parents and the church is crucial

to a child's experience of grace,

we ask you to re-commit yourselves

to the vows of the baptismal covenant:

Do you re-affirm your renunciation of sin

and your confession of faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior,

putting your whole trust in his grace,

and promising to serve him as your Lord,

by loving others as Christ loved you

and resisting evil, injustice, and oppression?

We do.

Do you commit yourself to work for God's reign on earth

through the church, which Christ has opened to all people,

participating actively in its ministries

with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness?

We do.

Will you nurture your child in Christ's Church,

that by your teaching and example,

he may grow to know the grace of God,

profess his faith in Christ openly,

and live as a faithful disciple of Christ's church?

We will.

CONGREGATION'S RESPONSE

Do you as Christ's church reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture this child in the Christian faith and life,
praying for him, teaching him, and leading him
in acts of service and mission?

We will.

BAPTISM WITH THE LAYING OF HANDS

ANOINTING WITH OIL

Following the biblical custom of anointing prophets (I Kings 19:36), priests (Exodus 29:7) and kings (I Kings 1:39), candidates are anointed at their baptism as a reminder that all Christians share in the royal, prophetic, priestly ministry of Jesus Christ.

PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

A candle, lighted from the Paschal Candle, is presented to the newly baptized to signify that the light of the One who overcame the darkness of sin and death now shines in his or her life.

WELCOME OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Joseph,

**we give thanks that God has claimed you
with an everlasting love that will never, ever let you go;
and we will never let you forget that!**

**We rejoice to welcome you as our brother
in the family of Christ.**

Our story is now your story:

you have ridden in the ark with Noah;

you have passed through the sea with Moses;

**Christ's death and resurrection for you is at work in you,
transforming you into the image of God.**

Grow with us in grace,

confess Christ crucified,

proclaim his resurrection,

and share with us in his royal priesthood.