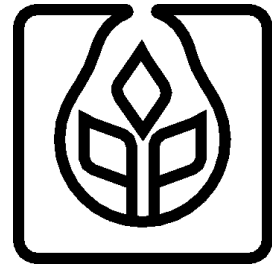


THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

The reception of new members marks the completion of the congregation's program of instruction in the Christian faith as confessed in the teachings of the Lutheran Church. Those who have completed this program were made members of the Church in Baptism. The service of reception into membership includes a public profession of the faith into which the candidates were baptized, thus underscoring God's action in their Baptism.



P=Pastor R=Response by those Affirming their Baptism C=Congregation

A representative of the congregation presents the candidates to the pastor:

These persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism.

[their names are read as they come forward, facing the altar]

P Dear friends, we rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

Brothers and sisters in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

R I do.

Stand

P Do you believe in God the Father?

R/C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

R/C **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 into hell. 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

R/C **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. Amen**

THE PRAYERS are said.

P Let us pray for those who are affirming their Baptism, and for all the baptized everywhere:

That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
P That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
P That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
P That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen**

Sit

The minister addresses those making affirmation.

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:
to live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person answers in turn.

R I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P Let us pray.

Those making affirmation kneel. A brief silence is kept so that prayer may be made for them.

P Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these *men and women* your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C **Amen**

The pastor lays both hands on the head of each person:

P Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in [first and middle names] the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm *his/her* faith, guide *his/her* life, empower *him/her* in *his/her* serving, give *him/her* patience in suffering, and bring *him/her* to everlasting life.

Each person answers: "Amen."

All being received stand. The pastor exchanges the peace with each of them.

All return to their places.

