MORNING PRAISE

with

BAPTISM

Welcome to this service of Baptism (or Christening).

Baptism is one of the oldest forms of Christian worship, (Jesus himself was baptised), and it is the way in which all people, young and old alike, come to be part of God's family.

God is always working in our lives, sharing his love with us and inviting us to share that love with others. Baptism is the way in which this invitation is made public.

During the service, which symbolises the journey we all make with God, three symbols are used: oil, water and light.

Holy Oil is used to seal the promises made to follow Christ. Water is used to baptise and welcome the person, and a lighted candle is given to symbolise the new life which begins today through Baptism.

Please remember those being baptised today, and if you would like any further information about Baptism (there is no cost), please speak to the priest after this service.

WELCOME

WELCOME and INTRODUCTION

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

HYMN (please stand)

OPENING PRAYER (please sit or kneel) Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may grow to serve you in faith and love.

Amen

We sing together -

Be still and know that I am God ... (x3) I am the Lord who heals you all... (x3) In you, O Lord, I put my trust... (x3)

READING and **TALK**

THE PRESENTATION

Those to be baptised are presented to the congregation.

Jesus said,

"Let the little children come to me. Do not stop them."

We thank God for **N**. who comes to be baptised today. God loves them and welcomes them into his Church.

So I ask all of you gathered here today: Will you support this child as he/she begins their journey of faith? **We will.**

Will you help them to live and grow within God's family? **We will.**

To the parents and Godparents God knows each of us by name and we are his.

Parents and Godparents, you speak for **N**. today.

Will you pray for them, and help him/her to follow Christ? **We will.**

THE DECISION

In our lives we all wander far from God and lose our way: it is Christ who comes to find us and welcomes us home. In baptism we respond to his call.

Therefore I ask you (on behalf of **N**.) :

Do you turn away from sin? I do.

Do you reject evil? I do.

Parents and Godparents turn and face the congregation

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour ? I do.

Do you trust in him as Lord? I do.

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

The priest makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, saying

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross. Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his for ever.

Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

May Almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen**

The priest and candidates then gather at the Baptismal Font.

PRAYER OF BLESSING OF THE WATER

Praise God who made heaven and earth, who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The priest then prays over the water.....Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

My dear sisters and brothers, let us affirm together with those who are being baptised, 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 ?

I believe and trust in him.

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

I believe and trust in him.

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 ? I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church. This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

THEBAPTISM

The priest pours water on each candidate, saying

N., I baptise you In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

N., may God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and so come to the inheritance of all the saints in glory. **Amen** There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: *N.*, by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body. We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are all children of the same heavenly Father; and we welcome you today.

Everyone returns to their seats

HYMN (during which a Collection is taken)

PRAYERS Prayers are offered for those newly baptised, their families and Godparents,

.....ending with...

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

SENDINGOUT

The newly baptised candidates come forward and each is given a lighted candle taken from the Easter Candle.

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, and has given us a place with the saints in light.

N., You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.
Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

BLESSING May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look kindly on you and give you his peace, this day and always. **Amen**

Go in the light and peace of Christ, Thanks be to God.

FINAL HYMN (all stand)

Refreshments are served after this Service. You are most welcome.

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