

# BAPTISM

— *belonging to*



# ***JESUS CHRIST***

*Baptism  
Belonging to Jesus Christ*

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*We welcome your interest in baptism!*

*We trust this booklet will help you to know what is being asked for when we come to be baptised, and to be well prepared for it.*

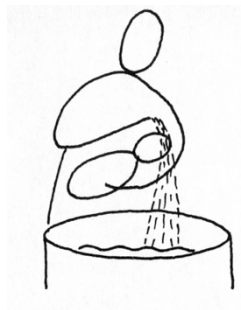
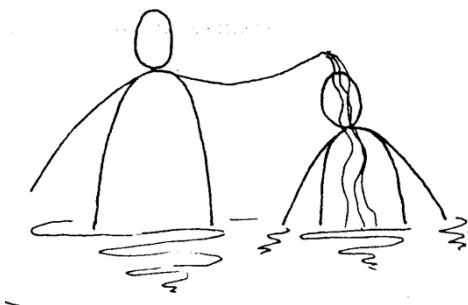
*In the Anglican Church we are committed to bringing people to know and trust Jesus Christ. He was crucified, and was raised from death, and he is alive now. As Son of God he rules over all. He saves us from sin and evil and brings us to know and love God as our Father. He gives us the power of God's Holy Spirit, so we can live our lives in the way God intended, now and in the eternal age to come.*

*Baptism is the way Jesus has given us of coming to belong to him. It is a decisive and memorable outward sign of the inner cleansing and renewal that God gives us through repentance and faith in Christ. It sets us up for a life of faithful and loving service towards God and other people.*

*In coming to be baptised in the Anglican Church you are joining a family of people who are a part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church throughout the ages. Together we are sustained in the journey of faith. We trust that your experience of baptism will be the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship with us in this journey.*



***Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit*** (Jesus in Matthew 28:19)



## Baptism

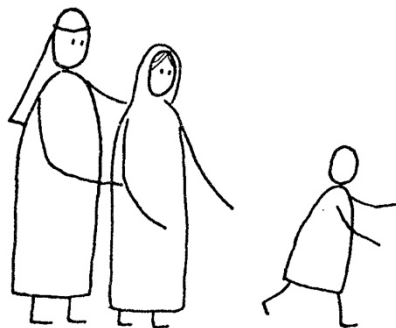
—dipping in water or pouring water on a person ‘in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’ (sometimes known as ‘Christ-ening’)—is being brought to belong to **God** through the Lord **Jesus Christ** by the power of God’s **Holy Spirit**.

- Baptism is being **identified with Jesus Christ** in his death, burial and rising to life again
- It is the sign of the **forgiveness** of sins, and **new birth** by the Spirit of God, brought about by Jesus’ death and resurrection
- Baptism comes with **repentance** (change of mind, heart and direction) towards God, and **faith** (long-term trusting relationship) in Jesus Christ.
- We are baptised into the **church** which is Christ’s body, and into the **inheritance** of the family of God, now and in the age to come.

# Jesus Christ

Born around A.D. 1 (all our years are dated from the time of Jesus' birth). 'You are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins' . . . they shall name him Emmanuel . . . God is with us

(Matthew 1:21, 23).

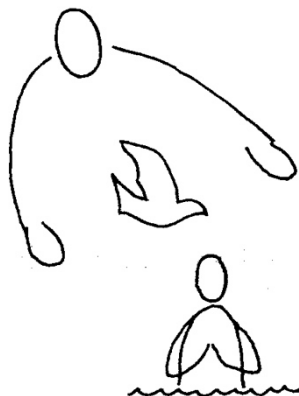


The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him

(Luke 2:40)

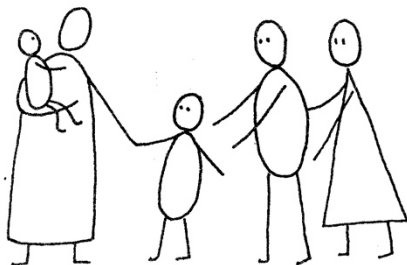
When Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased"

(Matthew 3:16–17)



Jesus saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things

(Mark 6:34)

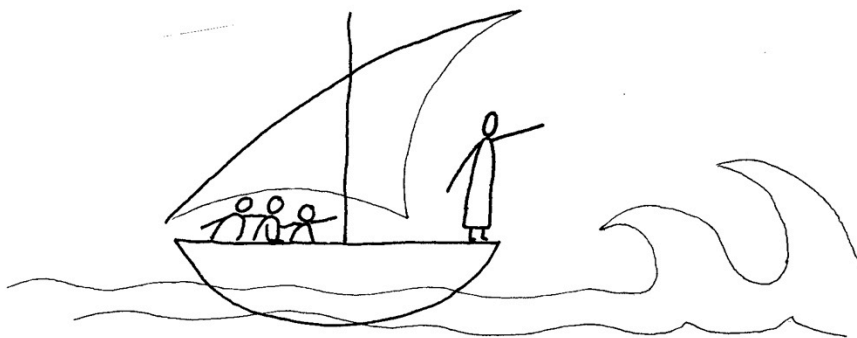


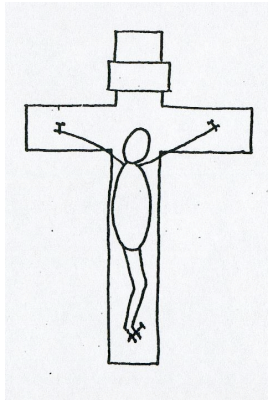
Jesus went throughout Galilee . . . they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them.

(Matthew 4:23, 24)

A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves . . . Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, 'What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?'

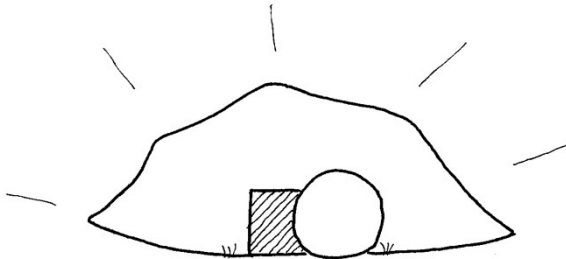
(Matthew 8:24–27)





When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there . . . Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing'.  
(Luke 23:33–34)

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness.  
(1 Peter 2:24)



They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said'.  
(Luke 24:2–3; Matthew 28:5–6)

God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.  
(Acts 2:24)

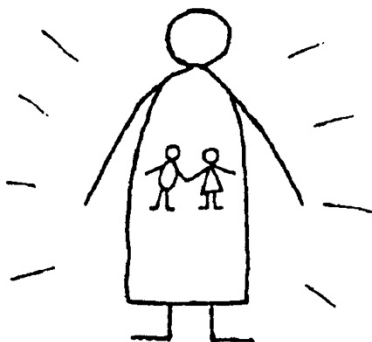
*Recommended:* Watch the *Jesus* DVD based on Luke's gospel.  
Read the gospel according to Matthew, Mark, Luke or John.



# Baptised into Christ

In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

(Galatians 3:26–27)



## In His Death and Resurrection

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

(Romans 6:3–4)

When you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

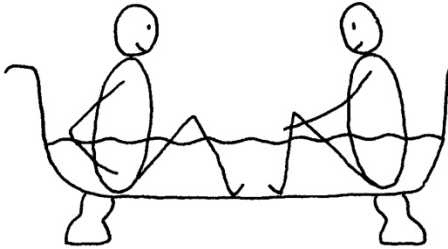
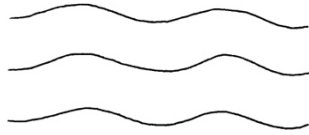
(Colossians 2:12)

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

(Galatians 2:19–20)

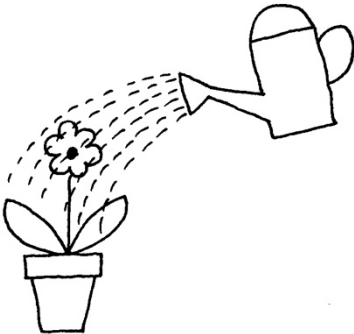
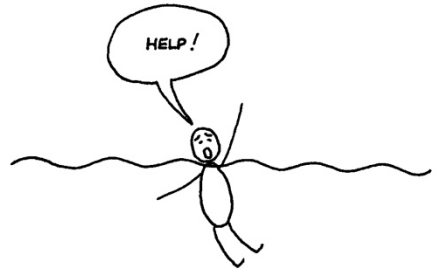
# Outward and Visible Sign

**Water**



***makes us clean***

***can be dangerous***



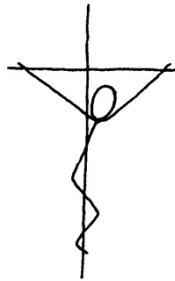
***gives new life***

# Inward and Spiritual Grace

## *In Baptism*



***my sins are washed away***

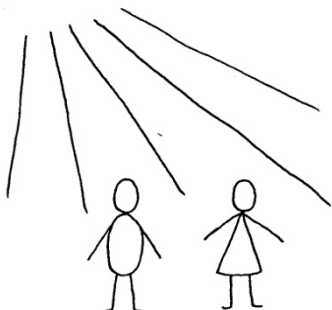


***the bad old me is dead and buried***



***the good new me comes alive with Jesus***

# Forgiveness of Sins



He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13–14)

And now why do you delay? Get up, be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on his name. (Acts 22:16)

# New Birth

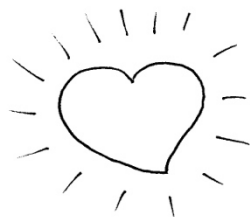


To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12–13)

“Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above . . . no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. (John 3:3, 5)

# Repentance

—turning to God



I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean . . . A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. (Ezekiel 36:25–27)

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

*From the Baptism Service:*

Do you turn to Christ?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

**I repent of my sins.**

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust?

**I reject them all.**

Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

**I renounce all that is evil.**



# Faith

—trusting in God . . .



The one who believes and is baptized will be saved (Mark 16:16)

‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he replied, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ (Acts 8:36–37)

*From the Baptism Service:*

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

**This is our faith:**

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

. . . and walking with God in His ways!

God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God.  
(1 John 4:15)

. . . we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. . .

The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

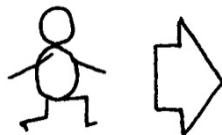
Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness.

(Romans 6:4, 10–13)

*From the Baptism Service:*

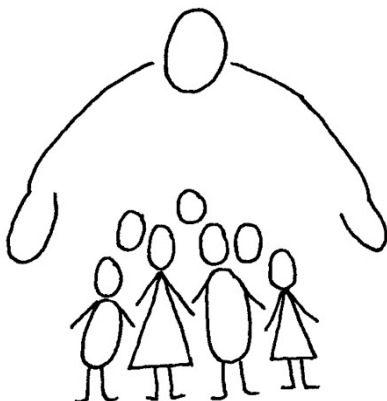
Will you each, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

**I will, with God's help.**



# Into Christ's Body the Church

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word . . . we are members of his body. (Ephesians 5:25–26, 30)



For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

*From the Baptism Service:*

God has called you into his Church.

**We therefore receive and welcome you  
as a member with us of the body of Christ,  
as a child of the one heavenly Father,  
and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.**



# Baptism of Young Children

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. (Mark 10:13–14)

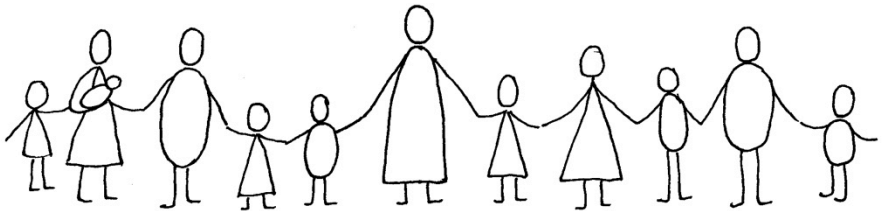
*From the Baptism Service:*

Children are baptised in response to God’s all-embracing love. Parents and godparents who have responded to that love come now to bring their children for baptism. Before this congregation they must express their own trust and commitment to the promises of God, and their intention to bring up their children in the faith and practice of the Church. In due time these children should make their own response to God, and be prepared for confirmation.

## Godparents

Godparents, with the parents, make the baptism promises on behalf of the child; and undertake to see that the child is taught the Christian Faith, and is brought up to lead a godly and Christian life.

A male child generally has two godfathers and one godmother, and a female two godmothers and one godfather, who themselves need to have been baptised, and preferably are confirmed members of the Anglican Church. Parents may be godparents for their own children.



# Confirmation

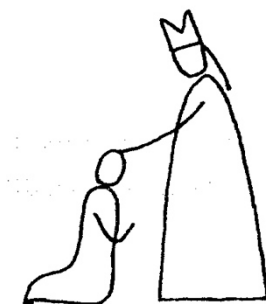
Prayer, with the laying-on of hands by the bishop, for strengthening with the Holy Spirit to participate in the ministry of Christ:

‘The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.’  
(Isaiah 11:1–3)

*From the Confirmation Service:*

Strengthen them, we pray, with the Holy Spirit  
that they may grow in grace.  
Increase in them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of discernment and inner strength,  
the spirit of knowledge and true godliness,  
and fill them with wonder and awe at your presence,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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



Confirmation generally follows close after baptism for those baptised as adults. For those baptised as children, confirmation comes with the personal ratifying of the baptism promises.



