Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain

An Ecumenical Service of Baptism and Confirmation
NOTES

Authorisation

This order for Baptism and Confirmation has been prepared by the Joint Liturgical Group at the request of Churches Together in England and is offered for the approval and use of those responsible for such a service in a Local Ecumenical Partnership.

Preparations

The questions, preparations and preliminaries to Baptism and Confirmation should take place according to the customs of each of the participating Christian churches.

Baptism

At the beginning of The Thanksgiving Over the Water the candidates go to the baptistery or gather round the font and water is poured into the font in the sight of the people.

Oil and Signing with Cross

A signing with oil and the cross (anointing athletes before a contest) may occur at the end of The Decision.

Oil mixed with fragrant spices (traditionally called chrism) expressing the messianic era and the abundance of the Holy Spirit may accompany the prayer after baptism or the laying on of hands.

Oil is normally consecrated by the bishop.
but deliver us from evil. 
For thine is the kingdom, 
the power and the glory, 
for ever and ever. Amen

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THE GREETING

_The Bishop or Minister welcomes the congregation and then says:_

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

_All:_ Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

_Hymn_

_The Bishop or Minister says:_

Sisters and brothers, by grace, 
through the sign and seal of Baptism, 
and in the power of the Holy Spirit, 
we become God's people, the Church. 
In Confirmation we are strengthened 
by the Holy Spirit 
that we may remain in Christ for ever 
as his faithful servants and witnesses.

_Let us pray:_ Living God, 
may all who are baptized into Christ 
be sustained by the Holy Spirit, 
that through lives of faith and love 
your grace may be known 
and your name honoured; 
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 
Amen.

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THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

_A passage from Scripture is read._

**At the end of it the reader says:**

This is the word of the Lord. 
Thanks be to God.
**Hymn**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says:*

**Reader:** A reading from the Gospel according to...

**Reader:** Hear the Gospel of Christ.

**All:** Glory to Christ our Saviour.

The gospel is read.

**Reader:** This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All:** Praise to Christ our Lord.

**Sermon**

**Hymn**

**THE LITURGY OF INITIATION**

**PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES**

The candidates may be presented to the congregation by name. Where appropriate, they may be presented by their godparents or sponsors.

**Minister:** Do you seek faith and life in Christ in baptism?

**Candidates:** I do.

Testimony by the candidates may follow.

The Bishop or Minister addresses the whole congregation

**THE SENDING OUT**

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized and confirmed who may carry it in the final procession.

**Bishop** Receive this light, for you belong to Christ, the Light of the world.

**All:** Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

**THE BLESSING**

**Bishop or Minister**

God the Father, through whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you by his life-giving Spirit; to walk with him in the paths of righteousness and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, upon you and remain with you always.

**All:** Amen.

**Hymn**

**THE DISMISSAL**

**Bishop or Minister**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**All:** Thanks be to God.
The Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

President: The bread is broken for the life of the world.
All: Lord, unite us in this sign.

These words may be used as the bread is broken

All: Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

The Giving of Communion

The president invites the people to receive communion.

Holy Communion is given first to those newly baptized and confirmed.

Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies

Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray:

All: We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all people. Amen.

People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their life in Christ?
All: We will, with the help of God.

THE DECISION

Bishop or Minister

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?
Candidates: I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?
Candidates: I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?
Candidates: I renounce evil.

Candidates may be signed with the cross. Olive oil may be used.

Bishop or Minister

(I anoint you with oil for the journey of faith.)
May God who has given you the desire to follow Christ give you strength to continue in the Way.

All: Amen
Sisters and brothers, I ask you to profess together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

All: We believe and trust in God the Father.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, born of the Virgin Mary, who was crucified, died, and was buried; who rose again from the dead; and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: We believe and trust in Jesus Christ.

Do you 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?

All: We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.

EITHER

President:

EITHER

President: We say together the prayer that Jesus gave us:

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen

OR

President: As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation;
Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of his kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

All: Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All: Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE BAPTISM

Hymn

THE THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Bishop or Minister stands at the font and says:

Gracious God, we thank you for your gifts of water and the Holy Spirit, for your sustaining, cleansing, and life-giving power. From the beginning your grace has been made known through water and the Spirit. Your Spirit moved over the waters at creation and you led your people to freedom through a parted sea. In the fullness of time you sent Jesus. He was baptized in the waters of the Jordan and anointed with the Holy Spirit. He passed through the deep waters of death and lives for evermore. He offers living water and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The presiding minister may extend her/his hands over the water.

Pour out your Holy Spirit that those/the one baptized in this water may die to sin, be raised with Christ, and be born to new life in the family of your Church. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.
The Bishop or Minister immerses each candidate in the water, or pours water on them, saying

N, I baptize you
in the Name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Bishop or Minister
By Baptism, God has received you into the Church.

If for special reasons the baptism does not proceed immediately to confirmation the presiding minister may anoint those who have been baptised with the oil of chrism, saying:

As Christ was anointed as prophet, priest and king may you live as a member of his body and share eternal life.

The presiding minister may sign the newly baptised with the sign of the cross saying:

N, I sign you with the cross, the sign of Christ.

If the baptism proceeds immediately to confirmation the anointing and signing are omitted.

A hymn is sung, during which the newly baptised may be clothed with a white robe and the Bishop or Minister may then say:

You have been clothed with Christ.
All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

President: Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the night that he was betrayed took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.
THE LITURGY OF COMMUNION

The Bishop or Minister invites the people to praise God for his goodness.

President: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
President: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
President: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

President: It is indeed right,
It is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
Holy Father, heavenly King,
Almighty and eternal god,
Through Jesus Christ your son our Lord.

For he is your living Word;
Through whom you have created all things
from the beginning,
And formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us
from the slavery to sin,
giving him to be born of a woman
and to die upon the cross;
you raised him from the dead
and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us
your holy and life-giving Spirit,
and made us a people for your own possession.

THE CONFIRMATION

The Bishop or the Minister stands before those who are to be confirmed, and the Bishop says

Our help is in the name of the Lord
All: who has made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord
All: now and for ever. Amen.

The Presiding Ministers extend their hands towards those to be confirmed and one of them says

Almighty and ever-living God,
you have given these your servants
new birth in baptism by water and the Spirit,
and have forgiven them all their sins.
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.

All: Amen.

One of the Presiding Ministers says to each candidate:

N, God has called you by name
and made you his own.

The Presiding Ministers then each lay a hand on the head of that candidate, saying together

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit. Amen.
The Presiding Minister may anoint those who have been confirmed with the oil of chrism, saying:

N, be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE WELCOME INTO MEMBERSHIP

The Ministers, with representatives of the local church, extend the hand of fellowship to those who have been baptized and confirmed. One of the Ministers invites the congregation to pray for all the candidates.

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

THE COMMISSIONING

Bishop or Minister All who are baptized are called to worship and serve God. Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

In the name of Christ will you pray for the world and its people, defend the weak, and seek justice and peace?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. Amen.

THE PEACE

Bishop or Minister God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. The peace of the Lord be always with you:

All: and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.