



Diocese of Missouri
 Immersive Baptism Workshop
 Christ Church Cathedral, October 27, 2018 ~ afternoon
Holy Baptism ~ Enriching the Ritual

Introduction: Key Concepts of Liturgy

1. Theological Integrity: Connecting what we do to the Christian story.
2. Liturgy as “the work of the people”: What you do in your congregation will depend on the particular gifts of your people.
3. Setting Priorities in Worship: Highlighting the Baptism
4. Making the most of your worship bulletin to instruct and clarify

Taste & See ~ Exploring Worship Options

I. The Baptism begins

PROCESSION TO THE FONT*

Hymn 199

NOTES & POSSIBILITIES

PRESENTATION & EXAMINATION OF BAPTISMAL CANDIDATES

Celebrant The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

(God)Parents I present *Alma* to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Celebrant *Alma*, do you desire to be baptized?

Alma **I do.** (*presentation music*)

Celebrant to Parents and Sponsors

Will you be responsible for seeing that the **child** you present **is** brought up in the Christian faith and life?

(God)Parents ([holding their hand up as a solemn vow](#)) I will, with God’s help.

Celebrant to Parents and Sponsors

Will you —by your prayers and witness— help **this child** to grow into the full stature of Christ?

(God)Parents ([holding their hand up as a solemn vow](#)) I will, with God’s help.

Procession could

- be led by a crucifer,
- include processing a baptismal banner
- be accompanied by music, singing, or waving ribbons on pole...
- The parish could choose **1** song or hymn that would become a **THE** Baptism tradition in the parish.

Song Ideas depending on your context:

- When I went down to the river to pray
- Come ye faithful raise the strain (Hymn 199)
- Wade in the water
-

Your Observations from Part I Above.

Take 2 minutes to reflect & jot notes before discussion.

What did you see, hear, smell, touch, taste, feel, notice?

Theological points?

What “worked” for you?

What distracted you?

Do you have other ideas?

II. Renunciations & Affirmations (BCP p.302)

1. facing the font in the rear

2. as printed here with gestures & music

BAPTISMAL RENUNCIATIONS & AFFIRMATIONS

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents speaking on behalf of younger children.

Celebrant As the candidates (or sponsors) voice their renunciations of cosmic, systemic and personal evil,* I invite all of you to join in the ancient gesture of renunciation. (*demonstrate*) Please face *the west or outer walls of the church* and decisively push out the heels of both hands. We'll do that 3 times for 3 questions. After the 4th question: Do you **turn** to Jesus Christ... then all of us will turn to face the altar, as the Baptizand (or sponsors) answer the remaining questions.

The people turn toward the west or the outside walls of the church. and push out with both hands when they hear "I renounce them".

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Baptizand or Sponsors I renounce them. (*renouncing music*)

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Baptizand or Sponsors I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Baptizand or Sponsors I renounce them.

Question Do you **turn** to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

ALL turn to face the altar.

Baptizand or Sponsors (*holding their hand up as a solemn vow*) I do. (*accepting music*
—lasting a bit longer than renouncing music)

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Baptizand or Sponsors (*holding their hand up as a solemn vow*) I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Baptizand or Sponsors (*holding their hand up as a solemn vow*) I do.

THE PEOPLE'S VOW OF SUPPORT*

After all are presented, the Celebrant addresses the STANDING congregation:

Celebrant Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

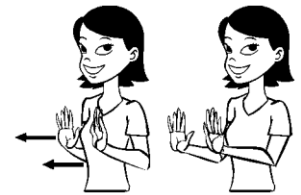
People **We will.**

Celebrant Let us join with *those who are* committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

NOTES & POSSIBILITIES

* Naming the levels of evil rejected in baptism instructs the people and helps them attend to the significance.

• This pushing gesture is documented in Jerusalem during baptism in the early centuries of the church.



• The early church faced West to renounce evil. The font and all altars were toward the East. Depending on the orientation of your church, you may wish to have people push West to demonstrate renunciation or turn to face the outside walls of the church. (*We want to avoid pushing against the altar, cross, or font.*)

* Adding a HEADING in the bulletin can help emphasize the importance of the Congregation's role in the life of the Baptized.

Observations, next page.

Your Observations from Part II, above. Take 2 minutes to reflect & jot notes before discussion.

What did you see, hear, smell, touch, taste, feel, notice?

Theological points?

What “worked” for you?

What distracted you?

Do you have other ideas?

Your Observations from Part III, as follows. Take 2 minutes to reflect & jot notes before discussion.

What did you see, hear, smell, touch, taste, feel, notice?

Theological points?

What “worked” for you?

What distracted you?

Do you have other ideas?

III. The Baptismal Covenant

(others may lead covenant for Renewal of Vows)

1. BCP p. 304

2. chanting the creed

3. with child "Asker" & music

The Apostles Creed (in Question Form)

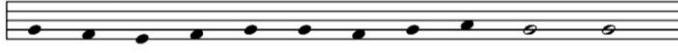
In the Ambrosian Style

Cantor:



Do you be - lieve in God?

Congregation:



I be - lieve in God, the Fa - ther al - might - y,



cre - a - tor of heav - en and earth.

Cantor:

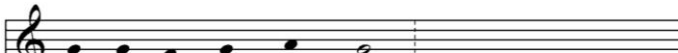


Do you be - lieve in Je - sus Christ?


Congregation:



I be - lieve in Je - sus Christ,



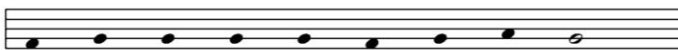
his on - ly Son, our Lord.



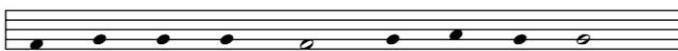
He was con - ceived by the pow - er of the Ho - ly Spir - it



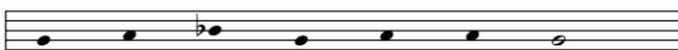
and born of the Vir - gin Ma - ry.



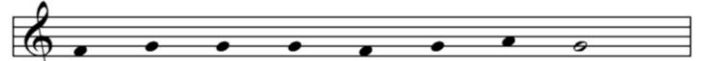
He suf - fered un - der Pon - tius Pi - late,



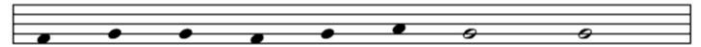
was cru - ci - fied, died, and was bur - ied.




He des - cend - ed to the dead.




On the third day he rose a - gain.



He as - cend - ed in - to heav - en,




and is seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther.



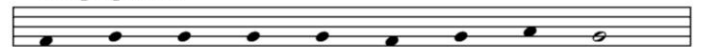
He will come a - gain to judge the liv - ing and the dead.

Cantor:



Do you be - lieve in the Ho - ly Spir - it?

Congregation:




I be - lieve in the Ho - ly Spir - it,



the ho - ly cath - o - lic Church,




the com - mun - ion of saints,



the for - give - ness of sins,



the res - ur - rec - tion of the bod - y,



and the life ev - er - last - ing.



A - - - - men.

From Paul F. Ford, *By Flowing Waters: Chant for the Liturgy* (Liturgical Press, 1999), No. 626. Adapted by Reggie M. Kidd, 2010.

Observations in lower box on previous page.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Asker Do WE believe in God the Father?

*The people respond in the words of the Apostles' Creed.**

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

Asker Do WE believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **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 to the dead. © (bell tone or short musical phrase)

silence. (ascending music begins. Celebrant leads in the voices, as music continues)

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. (music fades out)

Asker Do WE believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.

Celebrant or Leader Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

Baptizand, Sponsors, and People

I will, with God's help. (Words accompanied by ASL sign "help" ↓.*

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

Baptizand, Sponsors, and People **I will, with God's help.** ASL "help" ↓

Celebrant or Leader Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Baptizand, Sponsors, and People **I will, with God's help.** ASL "help" ↓

Celebrant or Leader Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Baptizand, Sponsors, and People **I will, with God's help.** ASL "help" ↓

Celebrant or Leader Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

Baptizand, Sponsors, and People **I will, with God's help.** ASL "help" ↓

NOTES & POSSIBILITIES

* Rubrics or notes can add historical depth.

Bp. Smith instructs: During a Baptism, the Celebrant should lead Baptismal Covenant. But others may lead for Renewal of Vows.

- When children voice parts of the service, putting those lines in larger font can help them find and keep their place.

Possible Leaders:

- a recently baptized or confirmed member could lead the Covenant.
- See prayer leader ideas below.

Bulletin line breaks can clarify content:

When prayers extend beyond 1 line, you can divide the text to keep meaningful segments together.

help



* Simplified American Sign Language is one way to enrich the Baptismal Vows.

Start up high (where God is imagined)

"I will" Thumb-up dominant hand is set on outstretched palm of other hand. (also means: "Amen")

"with God's help" The gesture is brought to the heart.

Observations and Discussion. See lower box on previous page.

IV. The Prayers (BCP p. 305)

1. with multiple voices leading AND bell, gong or chime INSTEAD OF spoken response

2. different response

PRAYERS FOR THE BAPTISMAL CANDIDATES

Celebrant Let us now pray for these persons
who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

- Deliver *Alma & Jordan*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death. *1st time* ☉ *a tone*
2nd time through: Lord, we pray. * **or simply "Amen" or something else?*
- Open *their* hearts to YOUR grace and truth. *1st time* ☉
2nd time through: Lord, we pray.
- Fill *them* with YOUR holy and life-giving Spirit. *1st time* ☉
2nd time through: Lord, we pray.
- Keep *them* in the faith and communion of YOUR holy Church. *1st time* ☉
2nd time through: Lord, we pray.
- Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit. *1st time* ☉
2nd time through: Lord, we pray.
- Send *them* into the world in witness to YOUR love. *1st time* ☉
2nd time through: Lord, we pray.
- Bring *them* to the fullness of YOUR peace and glory. *1st time* ☉
2nd time through: Lord, we pray.

Celebrant

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ YOUR Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

NOTES & POSSIBILITIES

Prayers can be enriched and better "owned" by the congregation through broader participation.

- Historically, deacons bid the prayers.
- Our BCP says anyone can be appointed.
- 2 different voices can lead prayers alternating (male/female, old/young...) OR
- grandparents, OR
- Vestry members, OR
- a baptizand's Sunday School teacher
- recently baptized or confirmed members

(Let the Baptizand, Parents and Sponsors receive the prayers and not lead them.)

Think broadly how to include others.

Your Observations from Part IV, above. Take 2 minutes to reflect & jot notes before discussion.

What did you see, hear, smell, touch, taste, feel, notice?

Theological points?

What "worked" for you?

What distracted you?

Do you have other ideas?

V. Thanksgiving over the Water

1. BCP p. 306

2. with music & congregational participation

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

~The Celebrant blesses the water.~

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Someone pours water into the font.**

Celebrant We thank YOU, Almighty God, for the gift of water.

(pause to hear music for sacred water, then continue with music softly under the words)

Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through it YOU led the children of Israel
out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise.

In it YOUR Son Jesus received the baptism of John
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,
to lead us, through his death and resurrection,
from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. *(pause while music finishes.)*

Celebrant We thank YOU, Father, for the water of Baptism. .

ALL **In it we are buried with Christ in his death.** ☉ *bell tone*

By it we share in his resurrection. ☉

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. ☉

Therefore in joyful obedience to YOUR Son,
we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith,
baptizing them in the Name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray YOU, by the power of YOUR Holy Spirit,
that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again
may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

ALL **To him, to YOU, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory,
now & for ever. Amen.**

NOTES & POSSIBILITIES

Lots of water!

*Who Pours Water?

- a deacon
- all children present
- older siblings
- current confirmation class
- recent baptizand or confirmand
- one person or MANY people

The Font

could be

- decorated with a wreath of flowers if someone in congregation has that skill
- have memorial rocks, glass beads or shells that worshipers can take with them when they make their way by the font on their way to communion.
-
-
-
- Trinity CWE has a mobile over their font with small bottles of water that members filled in places special to them and brought back to church.

Observations and Discussion next page.

Your Observations from Part V, above. Take 2 minutes to reflect & jot notes before discussion.

What did you see, hear, smell, touch, taste, feel, notice?

Theological points?

What “worked” for you?

What distracted you?

Do you have other ideas?

Your Observations from Part VI, as follows. Take 2 minutes to reflect & jot notes before discussion.

What did you see, hear, smell, touch, taste, feel, notice?

Theological points?

What “worked” for you?

What distracted you?

Do you have other ideas?

VI. The Actual Baptism & Welcome into “the Household of God” (BCP p.306)

THE BAPTISM

Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses or pours water upon the candidate, saying

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

ALL **Amen.**

When this action has been completed for all candidates,
the Bishop or Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over them, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank YOU that by water and the Holy Spirit YOU have bestowed upon these YOUR servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in YOUR Holy Spirit.

ALL **Give them an inquiring and discerning heart,
the courage to will and to persevere,
a spirit to know and to love YOU,
and the gift of joy and wonder in all YOUR works. Amen.**

Then the Bishop or Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross [using Chrism* if desired] and saying to each one

Alma, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism
and marked as Christ's own for ever.

ALL **Amen.**

BCP p.313 Option: A minister, sponsor, or representative of the congregation lights a CANDLE from the paschal candle and give one to each baptized, saying:

Rep. *Alma*, receive the light of Christ.

ALL **May Christ be manifest in you,
that your life may be a light to the world.**
(These words from Epiphany blessing in Book of Occasional Services.)

When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Let us welcome the newly baptized.

ALL ***Alma & Jordan* we receive you into the household of God.
Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection,
and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

Baptism Celebration Melody *



THE PEACE Standing — then circulate & greet.

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

During a hymn, the priest can **asperge** the congregation accompanied by the baptizand (baby carried by a sponsor, so the priest can sprinkle the people).

NOTES & POSSIBILITIES

Who Pours Water?

- a deacon
- one or more acolytes
- all children present
- a recent baptizand or confirmand
- anyone mentioned above who didn't lead the prayers...

Water can be in one large pitcher or many small ones.

Lots of Water.

*Chrism (even the same oil from last year can be blessed each time the Bishop comes for Visitation.)

LOTS of OIL, too!

Balsom is a traditional scent. Good-smelling oil is best.

Who performs the water rite?

- Traditionally, the Bishop presided at Baptism (and anointed w Chrism), and a deacon performed the water rite.
 - When Baptism occurs during Bishop's visitation, the priest may lead the water rite and the Bishop anoint with oil.
 - With Bishop present, a deacon may perform the water rite, and a priest anoint.
- * *The congregation could ring bells in celebration.*

**Did you know:
Anyone can baptize in an emergency.**

See BCP p. 313f.

Observations and Discussion. See lower box on previous page.

VII. Brainstorming:

1. Increasing congregational participation in Baptisms

- a. Add rubrics and announcements (and inform the ushers!) to invite the people to go to the font, touch the water and make the sign of the cross, after baptism before communion. (And they can take a bead or rock or shell from the font, if applicable.)
- b. Give the people something with the Baptizand's name/s and baptism date to take home, post it where they'll see it, and pray. (Could be water-droplet or shell-shaped papers, what else...?)
- c. Include Baptizands in the Prayers of the People for a full year.
- d. Brainstorm creatively about who could lead the Prayers for the Baptized.
- e. Have a baptism-themed welcome table with a picture of the person to be baptized.
- f.

2. Enriching Renewal of Vows on "Baptismal Feast" Sundays

(Easter Vigil, Pentecost, All Saints', the Baptism of our Lord & Bishop's Visitation)

- a. Make the font the center of the Renewal (procession, etc.), and invite people by the font on the way to the Communion rail.
- b. bring the Chrism oil out, so people can smell it.
- c. Pour lots of water.
- d. Have children or acolytes put glass beads or some memorial in the water, which people will take when they come to the font before communion. (See 1.a. above.)
- e. Invite someone besides the rector to lead the Renewal. (See Ideas for prayer leaders, p.7.)
- f. Include a note or rubric that the Baptismal Covenant begins with The Apostle's Creed.
- g. Use the gestures taught today during the Renewal of Vows.
- h. Sing your congregation's Baptismal hymn and **asperge** the people after the Renewal
- i.
- j.
- k.
- l.
- m.

Baptism Themed Prayers of the People

Feel free to modify.

This is made for a congregation of about 30 people. Anyone so moved could voice the prayer line marked with the Celtic ☥. For a larger or more formal congregation, you could replace the ☥ with "Leader 1," and the Leader line could be marked "Leader 2."

Celebrant Let us pray for the church, the world, ourselves and all God's people.

☥ Lord, we give YOU thanks for all the blessings of this life. ☉
Name specific blessings aloud or in your heart.

Leader Lord, open our hearts.

People **Open our hearts to YOUR grace and truth.**

☥ We pray for all who suffer or find themselves in any trouble. ☉
Name those on our prayer list & on your heart.

Leader Lord, send YOUR Spirit.

People **Fill us & all YOUR people with YOUR holy and life-giving Spirit.**

☥ We pray for our local communities. ☉
Name specific concerns aloud or in your heart.

Leader Lord, deliver us.

People **Deliver us & all YOUR people, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.**

☥ We pray for the Nation and all in authority. ☉
Name specific concerns and people aloud or in your heart.

Leader Lord, teach us.

People **Teach us & all YOUR people to love others in the power of the Spirit.**

☥ We pray for all seekers, members, leaders and strangers in the Church;
for the Church universal and God's mission in world. ☉
Name specific congregations, ministries & people.

Leader Lord, send us.

People **Send us into the world in witness to YOUR love.**

☥ We pray for all who have died, remembering their gifts to us and seeking
reconciliation for our differences. And for those who mourn. ☉
Name aloud or in your heart those you remember.

Leader Lord, bring us.

People **Bring us & all YOUR people to the fullness of YOUR peace and glory.**

(pause)

Leader Sustain us and all your people, O Lord, in YOUR Holy Spirit.

ALL **Give us inquiring and discerning hearts, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love YOU, and the gift of joy and wonder in all YOUR works. Amen.**

More Notes

Remember your Baptism.