

RITE OF BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA - adapted by Rev. Nathan Krause

The worship service that uses this rite will include both the Confession and Forgiveness and the Creed. The Rite of Baptismal Remembrance is inserted in the order of worship, usually in the Service of the Word in the place of Thanksgiving for the Word, after the Offering canticle/prayer. If possible, the baptismal font or a bowl of water may be placed in the front of the worship space or in the midst of those who are gathered. Prioritize accessibility whenever possible, and have a smaller bowl available if some worshipers will not be able to come forward.

Those present may make the sign of the cross as the leader begins. An ordained minister may make the sign of the cross over the assembly, while a lay minister may make the sign of the cross themselves, with the assembly.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
Amen.

Siblings in Christ, we come before God to remember our baptism into Christ and into the family we share, and to give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and covenant of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.
Amen.

People of God, do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ
through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?
I will, and I ask God to help me.

Children of God, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, living into your baptismal promises and vocation, in gratitude to God and in service to others, all the days of your life?
I will, and I ask God to help me.

Together let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught 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 forever. Amen.

The Rite of Baptismal Remembrance continues with this invitation:
Come, remember who you are and to whom you belong.

The congregation is invited to come forward and receive the sign of the cross upon their forehead or the back of their hand. Anyone who prefers a blessing without an anointing may come forward with their arms crossed. The anointing is accompanied by the words:
You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.
Thanks be to God.

After baptismal anointing:

Let us pray.
Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit your people together into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon us in our commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The service continues with the Sending section. If it is the community's tradition to include announcements at the end of the worship service, this may be included before the Benediction.

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