

Redeemer Baptism Liturgy

1. Opening Words - God's Invitation and Scriptural Promises

During this opening part of the baptism liturgy, a pastor will take time to explain what baptism means, read scripture referring to the ordinance of baptism, and introduce the person being baptized and their family.

2. Testimony

This is where the baptismal candidate (or parent/family/friend of the candidate or a pastor) reads the personal testimony of the candidate. The purpose of giving a personal testimony is to tell of the working of God's grace in the candidate's life, that the cross of Christ may be proclaimed and the faith of the listeners built up.

3. Response of Faith

After the testimony is shared, the baptismal candidate will be asked a few questions, to which they simply respond with "**I do!**" (or "**Yes!**")

- a. *Do you trust in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of your sins and the fulfillment of all God's promises to you, even eternal life? **I do!***
- b. *Do you forsake Satan and all his works and all his ways? **I do!***
- c. *Do you intend with God's help to obey Jesus' teaching and follow him as your Lord? **I do!***

Then the candidate along with the congregation will recite the Apostles' Creed (text appears on the screen.) The congregation is involved here because baptism is a sign of participation in the faith of the church. This action conveys the congregation's participation in the faith of the holy, catholic (universal) church in all times and places and the individual commitment to that faith by those being baptized.

- d. *Congregation, let's join _____ and profess our faith together using the Apostles' Creed:*

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

We 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.

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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic (universal) Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

- e. _____, *do you believe in what we just professed (even though you may not fully understand it all yet)? **I do!***

4. The Baptism

If the candidate is not already in the pool, they will be asked to get into the pool and then a pastor will say a sentence or two i.e. *“Upon your profession of faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”* and then the pastor will baptize the candidate by immersion (going briefly under the water).

5. Welcome into the Church

This is when the baptized person is welcomed into the church and the congregation commits to encourage and support the newly baptized member.

a. Congregation, we now receive _____ into Christ's church. I charge you to nurture and love _____ and to assist him/her to be a faithful disciple of Jesus.

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into the church; for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support you and to help you know and follow Jesus.

6. Prayer

A pastor will pray for the newly baptized member and for the church as they help encourage and disciple them.