The 1549 Book of Common Prayer,

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Contact:
Charles Wohlers
P. O. Box 227
East Bridgewater, Mass. 02333 USA
chadwohl@satucket.com
http://satucket.com
OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLYKE BAPTISM TO BE USED IN THE CHURCH.

It appeareth by ancient writers, that the sacrament of Baptism in the olden time was not commonly ministered, but at two times in the year, at Easter and Whitsuntide, at which times it was openly ministered in the presence of all the congregation. Which custom (now being grown out of use) although it cannot for many considerations be well refused again, yet it is thought good to follow the same as near as conveniently maybe be: Wherefore the people are to be admonished, that it is most convenient that baptism should not be ministered but upon Sundays and other holy days, when the most number of people may come together.

As well for that the congregation there present may testify the receiving of them, that be newly baptized, into the number of Christ's Church, as also because in the Baptism of Infantes, every man present may be put in remembrance of his own profession made to God in his Baptism. For which cause also it is expedient that Baptism be ministered in the English tongue. Nevertheless (by necessity to require) children ought at all times to be baptized, either at the church or else at home.
When there are children to be Baptised upon the Sunday, or holy daye, the parentes shall gene knowledge over nyght or in the morning, afore the beginning of Mattens to the curate. And then the Godfathers, Godmothers, and people, with the children must be ready at the Church daye, either immediately afore the last Canticle at Mattens or els immediately afore the last Canticle at Guenstong, as the Curate by his discretion shall appoynte. And then, standing there, the prieste shall ask whether the children be baptised on no. If they answer were No, then shall the priest say thus.

Dear beloved, forasmuch as all men bee conceyued and borne in sinne, and that no manne borne in sinne, can entre into the kingdom of God (except he be regenerate, and borne a newe of water, and the holy ghost) I beseech you to call upon God the father through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteouf mercy he will graunt to these children that thing, which by nature they cannot have, that is to saye, they may be baptised with the holy ghost, and receyued into Chriſtes holy Church, and be made lyuely members of the same.

Then the priest shall say.

Let vs praye.

Lmyghtie and euerlastynge God, whiche of thy justice dydest destroy by fluddes of water the whole worlde for synne, excepte .viii. persones, whome of thy mercy (the same tyme) thou didest saue in the Arke: And when thou didest dowerne in the red sea wycked kyng Pha-rao with al his armie, yet (at the same time) thou didest leade thy people the chylden of Iſrael lately through the myddes thereof: wherby thou didest figure the washynge of thy holy Baptisme: and by the Baptisme of thy wel beloved
Publyke Baptisme.

Some Jesus Christ, thou dydest sanctifie the fludde Jordan, and all other waters to this mysticall washing away of sinne: We beseeche thee (for thy infinite mercies) that thou wilt mercifully looke upon these children, & sanctifie them with thy holy gospe, that by this wholesome laver of regeneration, whatsoever sinne is in them, may be washed cleane away, that they being delivered from thy wrathe, may be received into chark of Christes churche, and so saued from perishing: and being seruente in spirit, stedfast in faith, joyfulfull through hope, rooted in charitie, maye ever serue thee: And finally attayne to everlaung lyfe, with all thy holy and chosen people. This graunte vs we beseeche the for Jesus Christes sake our Loade. Amen.

There shal the priest aske what shal be the name of the child, and when the Godfathers and Godmothers have tolde the name, then shall he make a crose vpon the childes foodehead and besette, saying.

¶ Receyue the signe of the holy Crosse, both in thy forhead, and in thy breede, in token that thou shalt not be ashamed to confesse thy faith in Christ crucified, and manfully to kyght under his banner against sinne, the wylde, and the devill, and to continuwe his faithfull sol-dior and seruaunt unto thy lyfes ende. Amen.

And this he shal doe and saye to as many children as bee presented to be Baptised, one after another.

Let vs praye.

Lnightie and immortall God, the ayde of all that nede, the helper of all that cle to thee for succour, the life of them that beleue, and the resurrection of the dead: we call upon thee for these infants, that they cumynge to thy holy Baptisme, may receyue remission of their sinnes, by spirituall regeneration. Receyue them (o Loade) as thou hast promised by thy wellbeloued sonne, saying: Ask, & you shall hauue: seke, and you shall fynde: knocke, and it shalbe opened unto you.
Publyke Baptisme.

So geue nowe vnto vs that afile: Lette vs that seke, fynde: open thy gate vnto vs that knocke: that these infantes maye enjoye the euerlastying benediccion of thy heavenly washing, and maye come to the eternall kyngdome whiche thou haste promised, by Criste our Lorde. Amen.

Then let the priest lokynge uppon the childeren, saye.

Commande thee, unclean spirite, in the name of the father, of the sone, and of the holy goyst, that thou come out, and departe from these infantes, whom our Lord Jesus Criste hath vouchsaued, to call to his holy Baptisme, to be made members of his body, and of his holy congregacion. Therefore thou cursed spirite, remembre thy sentence, remembre thy judgemente, remembre the daye to be at hande, wherin thou shalt burne in fyre euerlastying, prepared for thee and thy Angels. And presume not hereafter to exercise any tyrannye toward these infantes, whom Criste hathe bought with his precious bloud, and by this his holy Baptisme calleth to be of his flocke.

Then shalle the priest saye.

The Lorde be with you.

The people.

And with thy spirite.

The Pimister.

¶ Heare nowe the gospell written by S. Parke.

Parke r.

At a certayne tyme they brought children to Criste that he shoulde touche them, and hys discipes rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus sawe it, he was displeased, and sayed unto them: Suffre lytle childeren to come vnto me, and forbyd them not; for to suche belongeth the kingdom of God. Verely I saye vnto you: who soeuer doeth not receyve the kyngdome of God, as a lytle childe: he shall not entre therin. And when he had taken them vp in his armes: he put his handes upon them, and blessed them.
Publyke Baptisme.

After the gospel is read, the minister shall make this brief exposition upon the words of the gospel.

Kendes you heare in this gospel the woordes of our Saviour Christ, that he commanded the children to be brought unto him: howe he blamed those that would have kept them from him: howe he exhorteth all men to followe their innocencie. Ye perceyue howe by his outwarde gesture and dede he declared his good will toward them. For he embraced them in his arymes, he layed his handes upon them, and blessed them: doubt ye not therefore, but earnestly beleue, that he wyll lykewyse favorably receyve these present infants, that he wyll embrasse them, with the arms of his mercy, that he wyll geue unto them the blessyng of etemall lyfe: and make them partakers of his euerlasting kingdome. Wherefore we beyng thus persuaded of the good wyll of our heauenly father toward these infants, declared by his sonne Jesus Christe; And nothing doubting but that he favorably alloweth this charitable woike of ours, in bringing these children to his holy baptism: let vs faithfullly and devoutly geue thanks unto him: And say the prayer which the Lord himselfe taught. And in declaracion of our fayth, let vs also recyte the articles conteyned in our Crede.

Here the minister with the Godfathers, Godmothers, and people presente, shall saye.

Our father which art in heauen, halowed bee thy name, &c.

And then shall saye openly.
I beleue in God the father almightie, &c.

The priest shall adde also this prayer.

Lmightie and euerlastyng God, heauenly father, we geue the humble thankes, that thou haaste vouchesfaude to call vs to knowledge of thy grace, and fayth in thee: Increase and confirme this fayth in vs euermore: Geue thy holy spirite to these infants, that they may be borne agayne, and be made heynes of euerlasting saluacon, through our Lord Jesus
Publyke Baptisme.


Then let the priest take one of the children by the ryght hande, thother being brought after him. And cunning into the Churche towarde the fonte, saue,

The Lorde vouchesafe to receyue you into his holy hou-holde, and to kepe and gouerne you alwaye in the same, that you may haue everla†yng lyfe. Amen.

Then standing at the fonte the priest shal speake to the Godfathers and Godmothers, on this wyse.

Gheloved frendes, ye haue brought these children here to bee Baptized, ye haue prayed that our Lorde Jesus Christ would vouchesafe to receyue them, to lay his handes upon them, to blesse them, to release them of theyr sines, to geue them the kyngdome of heauen, and everla†yng life. Ye haue heard alse that our Lorde Jesus Christe hath promised in his gospel, to graunte all these thynges that ye haue prayed for: whiche promise he for his parte, will moste stervely kepe and perfourme. Wherefore, after this promise made by Christe, these infantes muste also faythfully for theyr parte promise by you, that be theyr serties, that they wyll forsake the deuyll and all his wo†kes, and constantly beleue Gods holy wo†de, and obediently kepe his commaundementes.

Then shal the priest demaunde of the childe (which shalbe first Baptized) these questions blowing: first naming the childe, and sayynge.

P. Doest thou forsake the deuill and all his wo†kes?

Aunswered.

I forsake them.

Minister.

Doest thou forsake the vaine pompe, and glory of the wo†de, with all the couetous desyres of the same?

Aunswered.

I forsake them.

Minister.

Doest thou forsake the carnall desyres of the fleth, so that thou wilt not folowe, nor be ledde by them?
Publicke Baptisme.

Aunswere.

I forfake them.

Minister.

Doest thou beleue in God the father almighty, maker of heauen and earth?

Aunswere.

I beleue.

Minister.

Doest thou beleue in Jesus Christe his only begotten sonne our Lord, and that he was conceyded by the holy goyst, boane of the virgin Mary, that he suffered under Poncius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buryed, that he went downe into hell, and also dyd ryse agayne the thyrde daie; that he ascended into heauen, and sitteth on the ryghthande of God the father almighty: And from thence shall come agayne at the ende of the worlde, to judge the quicke and the dead: Doeyst thou beleue this?

Aunswere.

I beleue.

Minister.

Doeyst thou beleue in the holy goyst, the holy Catholike Churche, the communion of Sanctes, remission of Sinnes, resurrection of the flethe, & everlastynge lyfe after death?

Aunswere.

I beleue.

Minister.

What doest thou desyre?

Aunswere.

Baptisme.

Minister.

Wilt thou be baptized?

Aunswere.

I wyll.

Then the priest shall take the childe in his handes, and ake the name. And naming the childe, shall dypppe it in the water thypcke. First dyppying the ryghtside: Seconde the left side: The thyrde tyme dypping the face towards the fonte: So it be discretly and warely done, sayinge.

P. I Baptize thee in the name of the father, and of the sonne, and of the holy goyst. Amen.
Publyke Baptisme.

And if the childe be weake, it shall suffice to powre water upon it, saying the fooleped woordes. P. I baptize thee, &c. Then the Godfathers and Godmothers shall take and lay theire hands upon the childe, and the minister shall put upon him his white vesture, commonly called the Crisme; And saye.

Take this white vesture for a token of the innocencie, whiche by Gods grace in this holy sacramente of Baptisme, is giuen unto thee: and for a signe whereby thou art admonished, to long as thou livest, to geue thy selue to innocencie of living, that after this transitorye lyfe, thou mayest be partaker of the lyfe everla\nging. Amen.

Then the p\ioye shall annoint the infant upon the head, saying.

A\lmighty God the father of our lorde Jesus Chri\, who hath regenerate thee by water and the holy go\, and hath giuen unto thee remission of al thy sinnes: he vouchsafe to annointe thee with the unction of his holy spirite, and byng thee to the inheritance of everla\nging lyfe. Amen.

When there are many to be Baptized, this o\de of demandung, Baptizing, putting on the Cryisme, and eniognting, shalbe v\ually with every childe. Thos that be fir\te Baptized departing from the fonte, and remainyng in some convenient place within the Churche untill all be Baptized. At the laste ende, the p\ioye calling the Godfathers and Godmothers together: shal saye this shorte exhortacion follow\ng:

Masmuch as these children haue promised by you to forsake the deuill and al his workes, to beleue in God, and to serve him: you must remembere that it is your partes and duetie, to see that these infantes be taught, so done as they shalbe able to learne, what a solemnne vowe, promise, and profession, they haue made by you. And that they mape knowe these thynges the better: ye shal call uppon them to heare sermons, and chiefly you shal provoke that thei may learne the Crede, the Lor\es prayer, and the ten commandementes, in thenglish toung: and all other things, which a christ\ian manne ought to knowe & beleue to his soules health. And that these children may be vertuously brought up to leade a godly & christ\ian life: remem\ng alwayes that Baptisme doeth represent unto vs our profession, which is to follow the example of our Saviour Chri\.
Publyke Baptisme.
and to be made lyke unto him, that as he dyed & rose againe
for vs: so should we (whiche are Baptised) dye from synne,
and rysse agayne unto righteousnesse, continually mortifying
all our euyll and corrupte affeccions, and dayly procedyng
in all vertue and godlynesse of lyuyng.

The minister shall commaunde that the Crisomes be brought to the
churche, and delpuered to the priests after the accustomed maner, at
the purificacion of the mother of euyry chylde. And that the childen
be brought to the Bishop to bee confirmed of hym, so soone as they
can saue in their vulgare tonge the articles of the fayth, the Lades
prayer, and the ten commaundementes, and be further instructed in
the Catechisme, se furth for that purpose, accordingly as it is there
expressed.

And so lette the congregacion departe in the name of the Loede.

Note that if the number of childen to be Baptised, and multitude
of people presente bee to great that they cannot conveniently stand at
the Churche doxe: then let them stand within the Churche in
some convenient place, nygh unto the Churche doxe;
And there all thinges be sayd and done,
appoynted to be sayed and done
at the Churche doxe.
OF THEM THAT BE

Baptised in private houses in time
of necessity.

...The pastors and curates shall oft admonish the people, that they differ not the Baptism of infants any longer than the Sunday, or other holy day, next after the childe be borne, onely upon a great & reasonable cause declared to the curate and by him appoved.

And also they shall warn them that without great cause, and necessity, they Baptize not children at home in theys houses. And when great neede shall compell them to doe, that then they minister it in this fashion.

First let them that be present call upon God for his grace, and save the Ladys prayer, if the tyme will suffice. And then one of them shall name the childe, and dippe him in the water, or pour water upon him, saying these words.

...I Baptize the in the name of the father, and of the same, and of the holy gho®te. Amen.

...And let them not doubt, but that the childe is Baptized, is lawfully and sufficiently Baptized, and ought not to be Baptized againe, in the Church. But yet nevertheless if the childe which is after this first Baptized, doe afterwarde lyve: it is expedient that he be brought into the Church, to thentre the priest maye examine and trye, whether the childe be lawfully Baptized or no. And if those that byng any childe to the Church doe aunswerre that he is alreadye Baptized: Then shall the priest examin them, further.

By whom the childe was Baptised?
Who was presente when the childe was baptisde?
Whether they called uppon God for grace and succoure in that necessitie?
With what thyng, or what matter they dyd Baptise the childe?
With what wo®des the childe was Baptised?
Whether they thinke the childe to be lawfully and perfectly Baptised?

And if the ministers shall poue by the aunswers of suche as brought the childe, that all thynges were done, as they ought to be: Then shall not he chyften the childe agayne, but shal receyue hym, as one of the flocke of the true christian people, saying thus.
Private Baptism

Certifie you, that in this case ye haue done well, and according unto due ordre concerning the baptising of this child, which being borne in original sinne, and in the wrath of God, is nowe by the laver of regeneration in Baptisme, made the childe of God, and heire of everlastyng life: for oure Lord Jesus Christe doeth not denye hys grace and mercie unto such infantes, but most louingly doeth call them vnto him. As the holy gospell doeth witnesse to our countraete on this wyse.

T a certaine time thei brought children vnto Christ that he should touch them, and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus sawe it, he was displeased, and sayed vnto them: Suffre lytle chylde to come vnto me, and forbidde them not, for to suche belongeth the kingdome of God. Verely I saye vnto you, whosoever doeth not receyue the kingdom of God as a lytle chylde, he shall not enter therm. And when he had taken them vp in his armes, he put his handes vpon them, and blisshed them.

After the gospell is read: the minister shall make this exhortacion upon the woordes of the gospell.

Rendes ye heare in this gospell the woordes of our Sauoure Christ, that he commaunded the children to be hought vnto him, how he blamed those that would haue kept them from hym, howe he exhorted all men to folowe their innocencie: Ye perceiue how by his outward gesture and dede he declared his good wyll towarde them, for he embraced them in his armes, he layed his handes vpon them,
Private Baptism

and blessed them. Doubt you not therfore, but earnestly beleue, that he hath lykewise fauourably receyued this presente infante, that he hath embraced him with the armes of his mercy, that he hath geuen unto him the blessing of eternal lyfe, and made him partaker of his euerla¥ing kingdom. Wherefore we beyng thus persuaded of the good will of oure heavenly father, declared by his somne Jesus Christ towards this infante: Let vs faythfully and devoutly geue thanks unto him, and saue the prayer whiche the Loxe himselfe taught; and in declaracion of our fayth, let vs also recyte the articles conteined in our Crede.

Here the minister with the God/athers and Godmothers shall saue.

Oui father whiche arte in heauen, halowed be thy name, &c.

Then shall they saue the Crede, and then the priest shall demand the name of the childe, whiche beyng by the Godfathers & Godmothers pronounced, the minister shall saue.

P. Doest thou foßake the devill and all his wokkes?
   Answer.
I foßake them.
   Minister.

P. Doest thou foßake the vaine pompe and glory of the woxide, with all the couetous desyres of thesame?
   Answer.
I foßake them.
   Minister.

P. Doest thou foßake the carnall desyres of the flesh, so that thou wilt not folowe and be led by them?
   Answer.
I foßake them.
   Minister.

P. Doest thou beleue in God the father almyghtie, maker of heauen and yearth?
Private Baptism

Aunswere.  
I beleue.

Minister.  
Doest thou beleue in Jesus Christe his only begotten sonne our loade, and that he was conceived by the holy Ghost, born of the virgin Marie, that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, that he went downe into hel, and also did arise againe the third day, that he ascended into heaven, sitteth on the righte hande of god the father almighty: And from thence shal come agayn at the ende of the world to judge the quicke and the dead, doest thou beleue thus?

Aunswere.  
I beleue.

Minister.  
Doest thou beleue in the holy goste, the holy catholyke Churche, the Communion of Saintes, Remission of sinnes, Resurrection of the flesh, and everlasting life after deth?

Aunswere.  
I beleue.

Then the minister shal put the white vesture, commonly called the Cryisme, upon the childe, saying.

Ake thys whyte vesture for a token of the innocencie whiche by goddes grace in the holy sacramente of baptisme is geuen unto thee, and for a signe wherby thou art admonished so long as thou shalt lyue, to gene thyselfe to innocencye of liuynge, that after this transitory life, thou maie be partaker of the life everlasting. Amen.

Let vs pray.

Lmightie and everlasting god heavenly father, wee geue thee humble thankes that thou hast vouchesfaced to cal vs to the knowlege of thy grace, and faith in thee: Increase and confirme this fayth in vs evermore: Geue thy holy spirite to this infant, that he being borne agayne, and beeing made heyre of everlasting saluation through our lord Jesus Christ, may continue thy seruaunt, and atteyn thy promises through the same our loade Jesus
Private Baptisme

Christe thy some, who liueth and reigneth with the in unitie of the same holy spirite euerlaỳinglye. Amen.

Then shall the minister make this exhortacion, to the Godfathers, and Godmothers.

F

Drasmuchë as this chylde hath promised by you to forfake the devill and al his woëkes, to beleue in god, & to servë him, you must remember that it is your partes and ductie to see that this infant be taught, so done as he shalbe able to learne, what a solenne dowe, promise, and profession he hath made by you, and that he may know these thinges the better, ye shall call upon hym to heare sermons: And chiefly ye shal provide that he may learne the Crede, the Lordes prayer, and the ten commandementes in the englisht tong, and al other thinges which a christian man ought to know and beleue to his soules health, and that this childe may bee vertuouflye bught up, to leade a godly and a christian life. Remembering alway that baptisme doeth represent unto vs our profession, which is to folow therexample of our sauiour Christë, and to be made like unto him, that as he died and rose againe for vs: so should we which be baptized dye from sin, and ryse againe unto righteouñes, continually matrifying al our euil & corrupt affeccions, and dayly proceding in al vertue and godlines of living.

As in Publike Baptisme.

But if they which bring the infants to the church, do make an uncertain anwser to the priests questions, and say that they can not tel what they thought, did, or sayde in that great feare and trouble of mynde: (as oftentimes it chaunñeth) Then let the priest Baptize him in some aboue written, concernyng publike Baptisme, sayng that at the dippynge of the childe its the fonte, he shalt use this forme of woordes.

If thou be not Baptized already, B. I Baptize thee in the name of the father, and of the some, and of the holy gost.

Amen.

The water in the fonte halbe chaunged every moneth once at the left, and afoxe any child be Baptized in the water is chaunged, the priest shall say at the fonte these prayers folowing.
moste mercifull god our saviour JESU Christ, who hast ordyned the element of water for the regeneration of thy faithfull people, upon whom, being baptised in the riuier of Jordaue, the holye ghooste came down in the likenesse of a dooue: Sende down we beseeche thee the same thy holye spirite to assiste vs, and to bee present at this our invocation of thy holy name: Sanctifie this fountain of baptism, thou that art the sanctifier of all thynges, that by the power of thy woerde, all those that shall he baptized therein, maye be spirituallye regenerated, and made the children of everlasting adoption. Amen.

O mercifull God, graunte that the olde Adam, in them that shalbe baptized in this fountayne, maye be buried, that the newe man may be raised up agayne. Amen.

Graunt that all carnal affectiouns maie die in them; and that all thynges belonging to the spirite maye liue and growe in them. Amen.

Graunt to all them which at this fountayne forsake the devill and all his workes: that they maye haue power & strength to haue victo°ye and to triumph against hym the worlde and the fle slu. Amen.

Whoovere shall confesse the, o lorde: recognize him also in thy kingdome. Amen.

Graunt that al sinne & vice here maie bee so extinct: that thei neuer haue power to raigne in thy seruauntes. Amen.

Grauntte that whoovere here shall begynne to be of thy flocke: maie evermore continue in the same. Amen.

Graunt that all they which for thy sake in this life doe denie and forsake themselves: may winne and purchase thee (o lorde) which art everlastinge treasure. Amen.
Private Baptism

Grant that whosoever is here dedicated to thee by our office & ministerie: maye also bee endewed with heavenly vertues, & euerlastinglye rewarded through thy mercie, O Blessed loyde God, who doest liue and gouerne al things world without ende. Amen.

The Loyde be with you.

Answer.

And with thy spirite.

A

Lmightye everluying God, whose moste derely beloued sonne Iesus Christe, for the forgunenesse of our sinnes did head out of his moste precious side bothe water and bloude, and gaue commandemente to his discipes that they shoulde goe teache all nacions, and baptise them in the name of the father, the sonne, and the holye ghoste: Regarde, we beseeche thee, the supplicacions of thy congregacion, and graunte that all thy seruauntes which shal bee baptizde in this water prepared for the mysteracion of thy holy sacrament, maye receive the fulnesse of thy grace, and euer remaine in the nombre of thy faithful, and elect children, through Iesus Christ our Lord.