

The 1549 Book of Common Prayer,

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OF THE ADMINI-

stration of publyke Baptisme to be vsed in the Church



It appeareth by auncient wryters, that the Sacramente of Baptisme in the olde tyme was not commonly ministred, but at two tymes in the yeare, at Easter and whytsontyde, at whiche tymes it was openly mynistred in the presence of all the congregacion: Whiche custome (now beeyng growen out of vse) although it cannot for many consideracions be wel restozed again, yet it is thought good to folowe thesame as nere as conueniently maybe be: Wherfoze the people are to bee admonished, that it is moste conueniente that baptisme shoulde not be ministred but vpon Sondayes and other holy dayes, when the most numbze of people maye come together.

As well for that the congregacion there presente may testifie the recey-
uyng of them, that be newly baptysed, into the noubze of

Christes Church, as also because in the Baptisme
of Infantes, euery manne presente maye
be put in remembzaunce of his
owne profession made
to God in his Bap-
tisme. For whiche

cause also it is expediente that Baptisme be ministred
in the Englishe tounge. Neuerthelesse (yf
necessitie so requyre) children ought
at all tymes to be baptised,
eyther at the church
oz els at home.

☞ PVBLIKE BAPTISME. ☞

When there are children to be Baptised vpon the Sunday, or holy daye, the parentes shall geue knowledge ouer nyght or in the moornyng, afoze the beginning of Mattens to the curate. And then the Godfathers, Godmothers, and people, with the chylzen muste be ready at the Church doze, either immediatly afoze the laste Canticle at Mattens or els immediatly afoze the last Canticle at Euen-song, as the Curate by his discrecion shall appoynte. And then, standyng there, the prieste shall aske whether the chylzen be baptised on no. If they aunswere y^es, then shall the prieste saye thus.



Care beloued, forasmuche as all men bee conceived and bozne in sinne, and that no manne bozne in synne, can entre into the kingdom of God (except he be regenerate, and bozne a newe of water, and the holy ghost) I beseeche you to call vpon God the father through our Lord Iesus Christ, that of his bounteous mercy he wil graunt to these chylzen that thing, which by nature they cannot haue, that is to saye, they may be baptised with the holy ghost, and receyued into Christes holy Church, and be made lyuely membes of the same.

When the prieste shall saye.

Let vs praye.



Almyghtie and euerlastyng God, whiche of thy iustice 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 drowne in the read sea wycked kyng Pharao with al his armie, yet (at the same time) thou didest leade thy people the chylzen of Israel safely through the myddes therof: wherby thou didest fygure the washyng of thy holy Baptisme: and by the Baptisme of thy wel beloued

Publyke Baptisme.

sonne Iesus Christe, thou dydest sanctifie the fludde Jordan, and al other waters to this mysticall washing away of synne: We beseeche thee (for thy infinite mercies) that thou wilt mercifully looke vpon these children, & sanctifie them with thy holy gost, that by this wholesome lauer of regeneration, whatsoeuer synne is in them, may be washed cleane away, that they being deliuered from thy wrathe, may be receiued into tharke of Christes church, and so saued from perisshyng: and beeyng feruente in spirite, stedfaste in fayth, ioyfull through hope, rooted in charitie, maye euer serue thee: And finally attayne to euerlastyng lyfe, with all thy holy and chosen people. This graunte vs we beseeche the for Iesus Christes sake our Lorde. Amen.

¶ Here shall the priest aske what shall be the name of the childe, and when the Godfathers and Godmothers haue tolde the name, then shall he make a crosse vpon the childes forehead and breste, saying.

¶ **R.** Receyue the signe of the holy Crosse, both in thy forehead, and in thy breste, in token that thou shalt not be ashamed to confesse thy fayth in Christe crucifyed, and manfully to fyght vnder his banner against synne, the worlde, and the deuill, and to contynewe his faythfull soldiour and seruauant vnto thy lyses ende. Amen.

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

Let vs praye.



Almightie and immortall God, the ayde of all that nede, the helper of all that flee to thee for succour, the life of them that beleue, and the resurreccion of the dead: we call vpon thee for these infantes, that they cummyng to thy holy Baptisme, may receyue remission of theyr synnes, by spirituall regeneration. Receyue them (o Lorde) as thou haste promysed by thy welbeloued sonne, saying: Aske, & you shall haue: seke, and you shall fynde: knocke, and it shalbe opened vnto you.

Publyke Baptisme.

So geue nowe vnto vs that aske: Lette vs that seke, fynde: open thy gate vnto vs that knocke: that these infantes maye enioy the euerlastyng benediccion of thy heauenly washing, and may come to the eternall kyngdome whiche thou haste promysed, by Christe our Lorde. Amen.

Then let the priest lokyng vpon the chyldren, saye.



I Commaunde thee, vncleane spirite, in the name of the father, of the sonne, and of the holy ghost, that thou come out, and departe from these infantes, whom our Lord Iesus Christe hath vouchsaued, to call to his holy Baptisme, to be made membrs of his body, and of his holy congregacion. Therfore thou cursed spirite, remembre thy sentence, remembre thy iudgemente, remembre the daye to be at hande, wherin thou shalt burne in fyre euerlasting, prepared for thee and thy Angels. And presume not hereafter to exercise any tyrannye towarde these infantes, whom Christe hathe bought with his precious blood, and by this his holy Baptisme calleth to be of his flocke.

Then shall the priest saye.

The Lorde be with you.

The people.

And with thy spirite.

The Minister.

Hearc nowe the gospel written by S. Marke.

Marke x.



In a certayne tyme they brought children to Christe that he should touche them, and hys disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Iesus sawe it, he was displeased, and sayed vnto them: Suffre lytle children to come vnto me, and forbyd them not; for to suche belongeth the kingdom of God. Merely I say vnto you: whosoeuer doeth not receyue the kyngdom of God, as a lytle chyld: he shall not entre therin. And when he had taken them vp in his armes: he put his handes vpon them, and blessed them.

Publyke Baptisme.

After the gospell is red, the Minister shall make this brieve exhortacion vpon the woordes of the gospell.



Rendes you heare in this gospell the woordes of our Sauour Christe, that he commaunded the childzen to be brought vnto him: howe he blamed those that would haue kept them from hym: howe he exhorteth all men to folowe their innocencie. Ye perceyue howe by his outwarde gesture and dede he declared his good wyll towarde them. For he embraced them in his armes, he layed his handes vpon them, and blessed them: doubtte ye not therfore, but earnestly beleue, that he wyll lykewyse fauourably receyue these present infantes, that he wyll embrace them, with the arms of his mercy, that he wyll geue vnto them the blessing of etemall lyfe: and make them partakers of his euerlasting kingdome. Wherfore we beyng thus perswaded of the good wyll of our heauenly father towarde these infantes, declared by his sonne Iesus Christe; And nothyng doubtynge but that he fauourably alloweth this charitable worke of ours, in bzinging these childzen to his holy baptisme: let vs saythfully and deuoutly geue thankes vnto him: And say the prayer which the Lord himselte taught. And in declaracion of our sayth, let vs also recyte the articles conteyned in our Crede.

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

Our father whiche art in heauen, halowed bee thy name,
ec.

And then shall saye openly.

I beleue in God the father almightie, ec.

The priest shall adde also this prayer.



Almightie and euerlastyng God, heauenly father, we geue the humble thankes, that thou haste vouchesaued to call vs to knowledge of thy grace, and sayth in thee: Increase and con-
fyrme this sayth in vs euermore: Geue thy holy spirite to these infantes, that they may be bozne agayne, and be made hepres of euerlasting saluacion, through our Lord Iesus

Publyke Baptisme.

Christ: Who lyueth and reigneth with thee and the holy spirite, nowe end for euer. Amen.

Then let the priest take one of the childzen by the ryght hande, thother being brought after him. And cumming into the Churche towarde the fonte, saye.

The Lorde vouchesafe to receyue you into his holy houfholde, and to kepe and gouerne you allwaye in the same, that you may haue euerlasting lyfe. Amen.

Then standyng at the fonte the priest shall speache to the Godfathers and Godmothers, on this wyse.



Webeloued frendes, ye haue brought these childzen here to bee Baptized, ye haue prayed that our Lorde Iesus Christ would vouchsafe to receyue them, to lay his handes vpon them, to blesse them, to release them of theyr sinnes, to geue them the kyngdome of heauen, and euerlastyng life. Ye haue heard also that our Lorde Iesus Christe hath promysed in his gospel, to graunte all these thynge that ye haue prayed for: whiche promyse he for his parte, will mooste suerly kepe and perfourme. Wherfore, after this promyse made by Christe, these infantes muste also faythfully for theyr parte promise by you, that be theyr suerties, that they wyll forsake the deuyl and all his woorkes, and constantly beleue Gods holy woorde, and obediently kepe his commaundementes.

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

R. Doest thou forsake the deuill and all his woorkes?

Answer.

I forsake them.

Minister.

Doest thou forsake the vaine pompe, and glozy of the worlde, with all the couetouse desyres of the same?

Answer.

I forsake them.

Minister.

Doest thou forsake the carnall desyres of the flesh, so that thou wilt not folowe, noz be ledde by them?

Publyke Baptisme.

Answer.

I forsake them.

Minister.

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

Answer.

I beleue.

Minister.

Doest thou beleue in Iesus Christe his only begotten sonne our Lorde, and that he was conceued by the holy gost, bozne of the virgin Mary, that he suffered vnder Poncius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buryed, that he went downe into hell, and also dyd ryse agayne the thyrde daye; 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 iudge the quicke and the dead: Doest thou beleue this?

Answer.

I beleue.

Minister.

Doest thou beleue in the holy gost, the holy Catholike Church, the communion of Sainctes, remission of Sinnes, resurreccion of the fleshe, & euerlastyng lyfe after death?

Answer.

I beleue.

Minister.

What doest thou desyre?

Answer.

Baptisme.

Minister.

Wilt thou be baptized?

Answer.

I wyll.

Then the prieste shall take the childe in his handes, and aske the name. And naming the childe, shall dyppe it in the water thryse. First dyping the ryghtsyde: Seconde the left syde: The thyrde tyme dyping the face towards the fonte: So it be discretly and warely done, saying.

P. I Baptize thee in the name of the father, and of the sonne, and of the holy gost. Amen.

Publyke Baptisme.

And if the childe be weake, it shall suffice to powre water vpon it, saying the foresayd woordes. *℞.* I baptize thee, &c. Then the Godfathers and Godmothers shall take and lay theyr handes vpon the childe, and the minister shall put vpon him his white vesture, commonly called the Crisome; And saye.

TAke this white vesture for a token of the innocencie, whiche by Gods grace in this holy sacramente of Baptisme, is giuen vnto thee: and for a signe wherby thou art admonished, so long as thou lyest, to geue thy selfe to innocencie of liuing, that after this transitozpe lyfe, thou mayest be partaker of the lyfe euerlasting. Amen.

Then the prieste shall annoynt the infant vpon the head, saying.

Almighty God the father of our lordes Iesus Christ, who hath regenerate thee by water and the holy gost, and hath geuen vnto thee remission of al thy sinnes: he vouchsaue to annoynte thee with the vnccion of his holy spirite, and byng thee to the inheritaunce of euerlasting lyfe. Amen.

When there are many to be Baptized, this ordze of demaunding, Baptizing, puttyng on the Crisome, and enoyntyng, shalbe vsed seuerally with euery chylde. Those that be firste Baptized departing from the fonte, and remaynyng in some conuenient place within the Churche vntill all be Baptized. At the laste ende, the prieste calling the Godfathers and Godmothers together: shall saye this shorte exhortacion folowing:

As much as these children haue promised by you to forsake the deuill and al his workes, to beleue in God, and to serue him: you must remembre that it is your partes and duetie, to see that these infantes be taught, so soone as they shalbe able to learne, what a solenne vowe, promyse, and profession, they haue made by you. And that they maye knowe these thynges the better: ye shall call vpon them to heare sermons, and chiefly you shal prouide that thei may learne the Crede, the Lordes prayer, and the ten commaundementes, in thenglish tounge: and all other thinges, which a christian manne ought to knowe & beleue to his soules health. And that these children may be vertuously brought vp to leade a godly & christian life: remembryng allwayes that Baptisme doeth represent vnto vs our profession, which is to folow the example of our Sauour Christe,

Publyke Baptisme.

and to be made lyke vnto him, that as he dyed & rose againe for vs: so should we (whiche are Baptised) dye from synne, and rylse agayne vnto righteousnesse, continually mortifying all our euyl and cozrupte affeccions, and dayly procedyng in all vertue and godlynesse of lyuyng.

The minister shall commaunde that the Crisomes be brought to the churche, and deliuered to the priestes after the accustomed maner, at the purificacion of the mother of euery chylde. And that the children be brought to the Bishop to bee confirmed of hym, so soone as they can saye in theyr vulgare tounge the articles of the fayth, the Lordes prayer, and the ten commaundementes, and be further instructed in the Catechisme, set furth for that purpose, accordingly as it is there expressed.

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

Cnote that yf the numbre of children to be Baptized, and multitude of people presente bee so great that they cannot conueniently stand at the Churche dooze: then let them stand within the Churche in some conuenient place, nygh vnto the Churche dooze;

And there all thynges be sayed and done,
appoynted to be sayed and done
at the Churche dooze.

OF THEM THAT BE

Baptised in private houses in tyme
of necessitie.

CThe pastours and curates shall oft admonyſhe the people, that they differ not the Baptisme of infantes any longer then the Sondaye, or other holy daye, nexte after the chyld be bozne, onlesſe vpon a great & reasonable cauſe declared to the curate and by hym approued.

And alſo they ſhal warne them that without great cauſe, and neceſſitie, they Baptize not children at home in theyꝝ houſes. And when great nede ſhall compell them ſo to doe, that then they miniſter it on this faſhion.

Fiſt let them that be preſent cal vpon God foꝝ his grace, and ſaye the Lordes prayer, yf the tyme will ſuffre. And then one of them ſhal name the chyld, and dippe him in the water, or poure water vpon him, ſaying theſe woꝝdes.

Cp. 3 Baptiſe the in the name of the father, and of the ſonne, and of the holy ghoſte. Amen.

CAnd let them not doubt, but that the chyld ſo Baptiſed, is lawfully and ſufficiently Baptized, and ought not to be Baptized againe, in the Churche. But yet neuertheleſſe if the chyld whiche is after this ſorte Baptized, doe afterwarde lye: it is expedient that he be brought into the Churche, to thentent the prieſte maye examine and tꝛye, whether the chyld be lawfully Baptized or no. And yf thoſe that byꝛng any chyld to the Churche doe aunſwere that he is alreadye Baptized: Then ſhall the prieſt examin them, further.

By whom the chyld was Baptiſed?

Who was preſente when the chyld was baptiſed?

Whether they called vpon God foꝝ grace and ſuccoure in that neceſſitie?

With what thyng, or what matter they dyd Baptiſe the chyld?

With what woꝝdes the chyld was Baptiſed?

Whether they thinke the chyld to be lawfully and perfectly Baptiſed?

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

Private Baptisme



Certifie you, that in this case ye haue doen wel, and according vnto due ordze concerning the baptising of this child, which being bozne in original synne, and in the wrathe of God, is nowe by the lauer of regeneracion in Baptisme, made the childe of God, and heire of euerlastyng life: for oure Lorde Iesus Christe doeth not denye hys grace and mercie vnto such infantes, but most louingly doeth call them vnto him. As the holy ghospell doeth witnessse to our comforte on this wyse.



I a certaine time thei brought chylzen vnto Christ that he should touch them, and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Iesus sawe it, he was displeasid, and sayed vnto them: Suffre lytle chylzen to come vnto me, and forbidde them not, for to suche belongeth the kingdome of God. Merely I saye vnto you, whosdeuer doeth not receyue the kingdome of God as a lytle chyld, he shall not enter thern. And when he had taken them vp in his armes, he put his handes vpon them, and blissed them.

Marke x.

After the ghospell is read: the minister shall make this exhortacion vpon the woordes of the ghospell.



Hendes ye heare in this ghospell the woordes of our Saucoure Christ, that he commaunded the chylzen to be brought vnto him, howe he blamed those that would haue kept them from hym, howe he exhorted all men to folowe their innocencie: He 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 Baptisme

and blessed them. Doubt you not therfore, but earnestly beleue, that he hath lykewyse fauourably receyued this presente infante, that he hath embraced him with the armes of his mercy, that he hath geuen vnto him the blessing of eternal lyfe, and made him partaker of his euerlasting kingdom. Wherfore we beyng thus perswaded of the good will of oure heauenly father, declared by his sonne Iesus Christ towardes this infante: Let vs faythfully and deuoutly geue thankes vnto him, and saye the prayer whiche the Lorde himselve taught; and in declaracion of our fayth, let vs also recyte the articles contained in our Crede.

Here the minister with the God/fathers and Godmothers shall saye.

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

Then shall they saye the Crede, and then the prieste shall demaund the name of the childe, whiche beyng by the Godfathers & Godmothers pronounced, the minister shall saye.

Q. Doest thou forsake the deuill and all his workes?

Answer.

I forsake them.

Minister.

Doest thou forsake the vaine pompe and glory of the worlde, with all the couetous desyres of thesame?

Answer.

I forsake them.

Minister.

Doest thou forsake the carnall desyres of the flesh, so that thou wilt not folowe and be led by them?

Answer.

I forsake them.

Minister.

Doest thou beleue in God the father almyghtie, maker of heauen and yearth?

Private Baptisme

Answer.

I beleue.

Minister.

Doest thou beleue in Iesus Christe hys onely begotten sonne our lord, and that he was conceived by the holy Cost, bozne of the virgin Marie, that he suffered vnder 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 heauen, & sitteth on the righte hande of god the father almightie: And from thence shal come agayn at the ende of the world to iudge the quicke and the dead, doest thou beleue thus?

Answer.

I beleue.

Minister.

Doest thou beleue in the holy goste, the holy catholyke Churche, the Communion of Saintes, Remission of sinnes, Resurreccion of the flesh, and euerlasting life after deth?

Answer.

I beleue.

Then the minister shal put the white vesture, commonly colled the Crysome, vpon the childe, saying.



Take thys whyte vesture for a token of the innocencie whiche by goddes grace in the holy sacrame[n]te of bapty[s]me is geuen vnto thee, and for a signe wherby thou art admonished so long as thou shalt lyue, to geue thyselfe to innocencye of liuyng, that after this transitozy life, thou maiest be partaker of the life euerlasting. Amen.

¶ Let vs pray.



Almightie and euerlasting god heauenly father, wee geue thee humble thankes that thou hast vouchesafed to cal vs to the knowlege of thy grace, and faith in thee: Increase and confirme this fayth in vs euermore: Geue thy holy spirite to this infant, that he being bozne agayne, and beeing made heyre of euerlasting saluacion through our lord Iesus Christ, may continue thy seruaunt, and attein thy promises through the same our lord Iesus

Private Baptisme

Christe thy sonne, who liueth and reigneth with the in vnitie of the same holy spirite euerlastinglye. Amen.

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

Foasmuche as this chylde hath promised by you to forsake the deuil and al his woꝝkes, to beleue in god, & to serue him, you must remember that it is your partes and duetie to see that this infant be taught, so sone as he shalbe able to learne, what a solemne vowe, promise, and profession he hath made by you, and that he may know these thinges the better, ye shall call vpon hym to heare sermons: And chiefly ye shal prouide that he may learne the Crede, the Lordes prayer, and the ten commaundementes in the english tong, and al other thinges which a christian man ought to know and beleue to his soules health, and that this childe may bee vertuously brought vp, to leade a godly and a christian life. Remembꝝing alway that baptisme doeth represent vnto vs our profession, which is to folow the example of our sauour Christe, and to be made like vnto him, that as he died and rose again for vs: so should we whiche are baptized dye from sin, and ryse againe vnto righteousness, continually mortifying al our euil & corrupt affeccions, and dayly proceeding in al vertue and godlines of liuing.

ec. As in Publike Baptisme.

But if they which bring the infantes to the church, do make an vncertain answer to the priestes 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 chaunseth) Then let the priest Baptize him in forme aboue written, concernyng publyke Baptisme, sayyng that at the dyping of the childe its the fonte, he shalt vse this forme of woꝝdes.

If thou be not Baptized already .℞. I Baptize thee in the name of the father, and of the sonne, and of the holy gost. Amen.

The water in the fonte shalbe chaunged euery moneth once at the lest, and afoze any childe be Baptized in the water so chaunged, the priest shall say at the font these prayers folowing.

Pruate Baptisme



moste mercifull god our sauoure Iesu Christ, who hast ordeyned the element of water for the regeneracion of thy faythful people, vpon whom, beyng baptised in the riuer of Iordane, the holye ghoſte came down in the likenesse of a dooue: Sende down we besече thee the same thy holye spirite to assiste vs, and to bee present at this our inuocacion of thy holy name: Sanctifie ¶ this fountaine of baptisme, thou that art the sanctifier of al thynges, that by the power of thy worde, all those that shall be baptized therein, maye be spirituallye regenerated, and made the childzen of euerlasting adopcion. Amen.

¶ mercifull God, graunte that the olde Adam, in them that shall be baptized in this fountayne, maye so be buried, that the newe man may be raised by agayne. Amen.

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

Graunt to all them which at this fountayne forsake the deuill and all his workes: that they maye haue power & strength to haue victorpe and to triumph againste hym the worlde and the fleshe. Amen.

Whosoever shall confesse the, o lord: recognise him also in thy kingdome. Amen.

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

Graunte that whosoever here shall begynne to be of thy flocke: maie euermoze 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 lord) which art euerlasting treasure. Amen.

Private Baptisme

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

The Lorde be with you.

Answer.

And with thy spirite.

A Almighty euerliuing God, whose moste derely beloved sonne Iesus Christe, for the forgeuenesse of our sinnes did shed out of his moste precious side bothe water and bloude, and gaue commaundemente to his disciples that they shoulde goe teache all nacions, and baptise them in the name of the father, the sonne, and the holpe ghooste: Regarde, we beseeche thee, the supplicacions of thy congregacion, and graunte that all thy seruauntes which shall bee baptized in this water prepared for the mynystracion of thy holy sacrament, maye receiue the fulnesse of thy grace, and euer remaine in the nounge of thy faithful, and elect children, through Iesus Christ our Lord.