The 1559 Book of Common Prayer,

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The Ministration of Baptisme, 
to bee vſed in the Church.

It appeareth by auncient Writers, that the Sacrament of Baptisme in the old time, was not commonly ministred, but at two times in the yeere, at Easter and Whitfontide. At which times it was openly ministred in the presence of all the congregation. Which custome now being growne out of use, (although it can not for many considerations bee well restored agayne) it is thought good to follow the same as nere as conueniently may be. Wherefore the people are to be admonished, that it is most conuenient that Baptisme should not be administred but vpon Sundayes, and other Holy-dayes, when the most number of people may come together, as well for that the Congregation there present may testify the receiuing of them that be newly baptized, into the number of Chriſts Church, as also because in the Baptisme of Infants, every man present may be put in remembrance of his owne profession made to God in his Baptisme. For which cause also, it is expedient that Baptisme be ministred in the English tongue. Neuerthelesſe (if necessity so require) children may at all times be baptized at home.

When there are children to be baptized vpon the Sunday, or Holy-day, the Parents shal giue knowledge over night, or in the Morning, afore the beginning of Morning prayer, to the Curate. And then the Godfathers, Godmothers, and people, with the children must be ready at the font, either immediately after the laſt Leſſon at Morning Prayer, or else immediately after the laſt Leſſon at Euening prayer, as the Curate by his discretion shall appoint. And then standinge there, the Prieſt shall aske whether the children bee baptized or no. If they aunſwere, No: Then shall the Prieſt fay thus.
Early beloved, forasmuche as all men be conceived and borne in sin, and that our Saviour Christ saith, None can enter into the kingdom of God, except hee bee regenerate, and bore anew of water and of the Holy Ghost: I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteous mercie, hee will grant to these children, that thing which by nature they cannot haue, that they may be baptized with water and the holy Ghost, and received into Christ's holy Church, and be made liuely members of the same.

Then shal the Priest say.

¶ Let us praye.

Lmightie and everlasting GOD, whiche of thy great mercie diddest save Noe and his familie in the Arcke, from perishing by water, and also diddest safely lead the children of Israel, thy people, thorow the Red Sea, figuring therby thy holy Baptisme: and by the Baptisme of thy wellbeloued Son Jesus Christ, diddest sanctifie the flood Jordan, and all other waters, to the mysticall washing away of sinne: We beseech thee for thine infinite mercies, that thou wilt mercifully look upon these children, sanctifie them and wash them with thy holy Ghost, that they being delivered from thy wrath, may bee received into the Arcke of Christs Church, and being stedfast in faith, joyfull through hope, and rooted in charitie, may so passe the waue of this troublsome world, that finally they may come to the land of everlasting life, there to reigne with thee world without end, through Jesus Christ our Lorde. Amen.

Lmighty and immortall God, the aide of all that neede, the helper of all that flee to thee for succour, the life of them that beleue, and the resurrection of the dead: wee call upon thee for these Infants, that they comming to thy holy Baptisme, may receive remission of their sinnes by spirituall regeneration. Receive them (O Lord) as thou haft promied by thy
welbeloued Sonne, laying: Aske and you shall haue; seeke, and you shall finde: knocke and it shall bee opened vnto you. So giue now vnto vs that aske. Let vs that seeke, finde open the gate vnto vs that knocke, that these Infantes may enjoy the everlasting benediction of thy heavenly washing, and may come to the eternall Kingdome which thou haft promised by Chrilt our Lord. Amen.

¶ Then shall the Priest saye

Heare the words of the Gospel, written by S. Marke, in the tenth Chapter.

A t a certaine time they brought children to Chrilt that hee should touch them, and his Disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesu saw it, he was displeased, and said vnto them. Suffer little children to come vnto me, and forbid them not, for to such belongeth the Kyngdome of God. Verily, I lay vnto you; whosoever doeth not receive the Kingdome of God as a little child, hee shall not enter therein. And when hee had taken the vp in his armes, hee put his handes upon them, and blessed them.

¶ After the Gospel is read, the Minister shall make this briefe exhortation vpon the words of the Gospel.

Riends, ye heare in this Gospel the words of our Saviour Chrilt, that he commanded the children to be brought vnto him: how he blamed those that would haue haue kepeth them from him: how he exhorted all men to follow their innocencie. You perceive how by his outward gesture and deede he declared his good will toward them: for he embraced them in his armes, he laied his hands vpon them, and blessed them, Doubt yee not therfore, but ernestly beleue that he will likewise favourably receive these present Infantes, that hee will embrace them with the armes of his mercie, that hee will giue vnto them the blessing of eternal life: and make them partakers of his everlasting Kingdome. Wherfore we being thus perswaded of the good will of our heavenly father, towards these Infantes declared by his Sonne Jesu Chrilt, and nothing doubting,
but that hee favourably alloweth this charitable worke of ours, in bringing these children to his holy Baptisme: let us faithfully and devoutly give thanks unto him, and lay,

Lmighty and everlasting God, heavenly Father, we give thee humble thanks, that thou hast vouchsafed to call us to the knowledge of thy grace and faith in thee: Increase this knowledge, and confirm this faith in us euermore: Give thy holy Spirit to these infants, that they may be borne againe, and be made heirs of everlasting Salvation, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

¶ Then the Priest shal speake vnto the Godfathers and Godmothers, on this wyse:

Elbeloued friends, ye haue brought these children here to bee baptized, ye haue prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ, would vouchsafe to receiue them, to lay his hands upon them, to blesse them, to release them of their sinnes, to give them the Kingdom of heaven, and everlasting life. Ye haue heard also that our Lord Jesus Christ hath promised in his Gospel, to grant all these thinges that ye haue prayed for: which promise he for his part will most surely keepe and performe. Wherfore after this promise made by Christ, these infants must also faithfully for their part promise by you that be their sureties, that they will forake the deviill and all his workes, and constantly beleue Gods holy word, and obediently keepe his Commandements.

¶ Then shal the Priest demand of the Godfathers and Godmothers these questions following.

Doest thou forake the deviill and all his workes, the vaine pompe and glory of the world, with all couetous desires of the same, and the carnall desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow, nor be led by them?

Aunsweres.

I forake them all.

The Minister.

Doest thou beleue in God the father almighty, maker of heaven and earth? And in Jesus Christ his onely begotten
Sonne our Lord? And that hee was conceiued by the holy Ghost, borne of the Virgin Mary, that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried, that hee went downe into hell, and also did rise againe the third day, that he ascended into heauen, and littest at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from thence shall come againe at the end of the world, to judge the quicke and the dead? And doest thou beleeeue in the holy Ghost the holy Catholicque Church, the Communion of Saints, the remission of synnes, the resurrection of the fleche, and euerlasting life after death?

Aunfwere.

All this I stedfastly beleeeue.

Minister.

Wylt thou be baptized in this faith?

Aunfwere.

That if my desyre.

¶ Then shall the Priest say.

Mercifull God, grant that the old Adam in these children may be so buried, that the new man may be raised vp in them. Amen.

Grant that all carnall affections may die in them, and that all things belonging to the spirit, may live and grow in them. Amen.

Grant that they may have power and strength to have victory, and to triumph against the devill, the world, and the flesh. Amen.

Grant that whosoever is here dedicated to thee, by our office and ministery, may also be endued with heavenly vertues, and euerlastingly rewarded, through thy mercy, O blessed Lord God, who doest live and governe all things, world without ende. Amen.

Lmighty everliving God, whose most dearly beloved Sonne Jesus Christe, for the forgiueneesse of our synnes, did shed out his moste precious side both water and blood, and gaue commandement to his Disciples that they should go teach all Nations, and baptize them in the Name of the Father, the Sonne, and of the holy Ghost : Regard, wee beleeech thee, the supplications of thy Congregation, and grant that all thy ser-
uants which shall bee baptized in this water, may receive the fulnelse of thy grace, and euer remaie in the number of thy faithfull and elect children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ Then the Priest shall take the childe in his hands, and aske the name; and naming the childe, shall dip it in the water, so it bee discreetly and warily done, sayng,

N. I baptize the in the Name of the Father, and of the Sonne, and of the holy Ghost. Amen.

¶ And if the childe bee weake, it shall suffice to powre water vpon it, sayng the forefaid words.

N. I baptize the in the Name of the Father, and of the Sonne, and of the holy Ghost. Amen.

¶ Then the Priest shall make a Croffe vpon the Childes forehead, sayng:

E receive this Childe into the Congregation of Christs flocke, and doe signe him with the ligne of the Crosse, in token that hereafter hee shall not bee ashamed to confesse the Faith of Christ crucified, and manfully to fight under his banner against sinne, the world, and the devill, and to continue Christs faithfull souldier and seruaunt unto his liues end. Amen.

Then shal the Priest say,

Eeing now, dearely beloued brethren that these children bee regenerate and grafted into the body of Christs Congregation, let vs giue thanks vnto God for these benefits, and with one accord make our prayers vnto Almighty God, that they may leade the rest of their life according to this beginning.

Then shal be sayd.

Our Father which art in heauen, &c.

Then shal the Priest say,

E yeilde thee hearty thankes most mercifull Father, that it hath pleased thee to regenerate this Infant with thy holy Spirite, to receive him for thine owne childe by adoption, and to incorporate him into thy holy Congregacion. And humbly we
beleche thee to grant that he being dead unto sinne, and lyuing
unto righteousnesse, and being buried with Christ in his death,
may crucify the old man, and utterly abolishe the whole body of
sinne, that as he is made partaker of the death of thy Son, so
hee may bee partaker of his resurrection, so that finally with
the residue of thy holy Congregation, he may bee inheritour of

¶ At the laſt end, the Priest calling the Godfathers and Godmothers
together, shal say this exhortation following.

Oralmuch as these children haue promised by you
to forlaxe the deuill and his worke, to beleue in
God, and to serve him, you must remember that it
is your parts and duties to see that these Infants
be taughte, so loone al they shall be able to learne,
what a lolemne vow, promise, and profession they haue made
by you. And that they may know these things the better; yee
shall call upon them to heare Sermons, and chiefly you shall
provide that they may learne the Creed, the Lords prayer, and
the ten Commandements in the English tongue; and all other
things which a Christian man ought to know and beleue to
his soules health, and that these children may bee vertuously
brought vp, to leade a godly and a Christian life, remember-
ing alwayes that Baptisme doeth represent unto vs our profession,
which is, to follow the example of our Saviour Christ, and to
be made like unto him, that as he died and rose againe for vs:
so should we whiche are baptized, die from sinne, and rise
again unto righteousnesse, continually mortifying all our euill
and corrupt affections, and dayly proceding in all vertue and
godlynesse of liuing.

¶ The Minister shal command that the children bee brought to the Byſhop
to be conſyrmed of him, fo soone as they can say in their vulgar tongue,
the Articles of the Faith, the Lords prayer, and the ten Commande-
mentes, and be further inſtruced in the Catechisme set forth for that
purpoſe, accordingly as it is there expreſsed.
Of them that are to be baptized in private houses in time of necessity, by the Minister of the Parish, or any other lawfull Minister that can be procured.

He Pastors and Curates shall oft admonish the people, that they deferre not the Baptisme of Infants any longer then the Sunday, or other Holy day, next after the Childe be borne vnlesse vpon a great and reaſonable cauſe declared to the Curate, and by him approovd.

¶ And alſo they ſhall warne them, that without great cauſe, and neceſsity, they procure not their children to bee baptized at home in their houſes. And when great neede ſhall compel them ſo to do, that then Baptifme ſhall be adminiſtered in this faſion.

¶ Firſt, let the lawfull Minister, and them that be preſent, call vpon God for his grace, and ſay the Lords Prayer, if the time will ſuffer. And then the childe being named by ſome one that is preſent, the ſaid lawfull Minister ſhall dip it in water, or poure water vpon it, ſaying these words:

N. I Baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Sonne, and of the holy Ghost. Amen.

¶ And let them not doubt, but that the childe ſo baptized, is lawfully and ſufficiently baptized, and ought not to bee baptized againe. But yet neuertheleſſe, if the childe which is after this fort baptized, doe afterward liue, it is expediente that it be broughte into the Church, to the Intent that if the Prieſt or Minister of the ſame Parſh did himſelf baptize that childe, the Congregation may be certifie of the true forme of Baptisme by him priuately before vfed: or if the child were baptized by any other lawfull Minister, that then the Minister of the Parſh where the childe was borne or Chrisſteneſd, ſhall examine and trie, whether this childe be lawfully baptized, or no. In which cafe, if thoſe that bring any childe to the Church, do anſwer that the ſame child is already baptized, then ſhall the Minifter examine them further, ſaying,

By whom was the childe baptized?
Who was preſent when the childe was baptized?
And because somethings essentiaſl to this Sacrament may happen to bee omitted through feare or halte in lucſ times of extremitie; therefore I demand further of you;
With what matter was the childe baptized?
With what words was the childe baptized?
Whether think you the childe to bee lawfully and perfectly baptized?
¶ And if the Minister shall finde by the answers of such as bring the childe, that all things were done as they ought to bee: then shall not hee Christen the childe againe, but shall receiue him as one of the flocke of the true Christian people, sayeing thus,

Certifie you, that in this case all is well done, and according unto due order concerning the baptizing of this childe, which being borne in original sinne and in the wrath of God, is nowe by the laver of regeneration in Baptisme, received into the number of the children of God, and heires of euerlasting life: for our Lord Jesus Christ doeth not deny his grace and mercy vnto such Infants, but most lovingly doth call the vnto him: as the holy gospel doth witnesse to our comfort on this wise.

At a certaine time they brought children vnto Christ that he should touch them: and his Disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was displeased, and said vnto them: Suffer little children to come vnto me, and forbid them not, for to such belongeth the Kingdome of God. Verely I say vnto you, whosoever doth not receive the Kingdome of God as a little childe, hee shall not enter therin. And when he had taken them vp in his armes, he put his hands vpon them, and blessed them.

¶ After the Gospel is read, the minister shal make this exhortation vpon the words of the Gospel.

Friends, you heare in this Gospel the words of our Saviour Christe, that he commanded the children to be brought vnto him: how he blamed those that would haue kepte them from him, how hee exhorted all men to follow their innocencie: Yee perceiue how by his outward gesture and deed he declared his good will toward them. For he embraced them in his armes, he laid his hands vpon them, and blessed them. Doubt ye not therefore, but earnestly beleue, that he hath likewise fauourably received this present Infant, that hee hath embraced him with the armes of his mercie, that he hath giuen vnto him the blessing of eternall life, and made him partaker of his euerlasting Kingdome. Wherfore wee being thus perswaded of the good will of our heavenly Father, declared by his Sonne Jesus Christ towards this Infant, Let vs faithfully and de-
vously give thankes unto him, and lay the prayer, which the Lord himselfe taught, and in declaration of our Faith, let vs recite the Articles contained in our Creed.

¶ Here the Minifter with the Godfathers, and Godmothers shall say.

¶ Our Father which art in heauen, &c.

¶ Then shall the Priſt demand the name of the childe, which being by the Godfathers and Godmothers pronounced, the Minifter shall say,

Doest thou in the name of this childe forsake the devill and all his workes, the vaine pompe and glory of the world, with all the covetous delights of the same, the carnall desires of the flesh, and not to follow and be led by them?

Answere.

I forsake them all.

Minifter.

Doest thou in the name of this childe professe this faith, to beleue in God the Father Almighty, maker of heauen and earth? And in Jesus Christ his onely begotten Sonne our Lord? and that hee was conceiued by the holy Ghost, borne of the Virgin Mary, that hee suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, that hee wet downe into hell, and also did rife againe the third daye, that hee ascended into heauen, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and from thence hee shall come againe at the end of the world, to judge the quicke and the dead? And doe you in his name beleue in the holy Ghost the holy Catholicque Church, the Communion of Saints, the Remission of sinne, Resurreccion, and everlasting life after death?

Answere.

All this I steadfastly beleue.
Let us pray.

Mighty and everlasting God, heavenly father, we give thee humble thankes, for that thou hast vouchsafed to call vs to the knowledge of thy grace and faith in thee: Increase this knowledge, and confirm this faith in vs evermore: Give thy holy Spirit to this infant, that he being borne againe and being made heire of everlasting salvation, through our Lord Jesus Christ, may continue thy servant, and attaine thy promise, through the same our Lord Jesus Christ thy Sonne, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same holy Spirit everlastingely. Amen.

Then shal the Minister make this exhortacion, to the Godfathers and Godmothers.

Orasmuch as this childe hath promised by you to forfake the deuill and all his workes, to beleeue in God, and to serve him: you must remember that it is your part and duety, to see that this Infant be taught, so soone as he shall bee able to learne what a solene vow, promise, and profession he hath made by you. And that hee may know these thinges the better, yee shall call upon him to heare Sermons, and chiefly you shall provide that hee may learne the Creed, the Lords prayer and the ten Commandements in the English tongue, and all other things which a Christian man ought to know, and beleue to his soules health, and that this childe may bee vertuously brought up, to leade a godly and a christian life, remembering alway that Baptisme both represent unto vs our profession, which is, to follow the example of our Saviour Christ, and be made like unto hym, that as hym died and rose againe for vs, so shoulde wee which are baptized, die from sinne, and rize againe unto righteou-
nells, continually mortifying all our euill and corrupt affections, and daily proceeding in all vertue, and godlinesse of living.

And foorth, as in publique Baptisme.

¶ But if they which bring the Infants to the Church, doe make such vncertaine aunswers to the Prieſts queſtions, as that It cannot appeare that the Childe was baptized with water, In the Name of the Father, and of the Sonne, and of the holy Ghost: whichh are the essentiaſl parts of Baptiſme: then let the Prieſt baptize It in form aboue written, concerning publique Baptisme, faying that at the dipping of the Childe in the Font, he shall vſe this forme of wordes.

¶ If thou be not already baptized, ¶ I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Sonne, and of the holy Gholt. Amen.