The 1789 Book of Common Prayer, 
Formatted as the original

We are presenting this electronic version of the U. S. 1789 Book of Common Prayer in hopes that it will prove useful and instructive to the Church. Parishes might find it useful in recreating historical services, for example, to celebrate the anniversary of the parish. Others might find it instructive to compare the changes, additions, and deletions, which have taken place in the various versions of the Book of Common Prayer.

The 1789 Book of Common Prayer was in use in the United States from 1790 until 1892. During that time there were minor changes in the Book. The text used here bears a certification date of 1856, and so will reflect any of these minor changes made between 1789 and then.

The original text is about 6 X 4" in size, or somewhat smaller than the current Book of Common Prayer. As this is not a common size today, it has been reformatted to fill an 8.5 X 11" sheet of paper, two columns, landscape. The pagination, however, is unchanged, so that the type is thus somewhat larger than the original. The font used is Century 731; this seems to be a good match to the original to my untrained eye. Note that a great many editions by a great many publishers of this 1789 Prayer Book were printed, all with somewhat differing formats. The font used, number of columns per page, etc. were not standardized, unlike subsequent prayer books. Thus the appearance of other 1789 Prayer Books will likely be different from what you see here. The edition here (published by the New York Bible and Common Prayer Society in 1865) was chosen because is fairly common and seemed typical of Prayer Books of the post-Civil War era.

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THE MINISTRATION OF
PUBLIC BAPTISM OF INFANTS,
TO BE USED IN THE CHURCH.

¶ The people are to be admonished, that it is most convenient that Baptism
should be administered but upon Sundays and other Holy Days or Prayer
Days. Neverthe-less (of necessity so require) Baptism may be adminis tered
upon any other day.

¶ There shall be for every Male child to be baptized when they can have, two
Godfathers and one Godmother; and for every Female, one Godfather and
two Godmothers, and Parents shall be admitted as sponsors, if it he
desired.

¶ When there are children to be baptized, the Parents or Sponsors shall give
knowledge thereof, before the beginning of Morning Prayer to the Minister.
And then the Godfathers and Godmothers and the 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
Evening Prayer, as the Minister by his discretion shall appoint. And the
Minister coming to the Font (which is then to be filled with pure Water,)
and standing there, shall say,

HATH this Child been already baptized, or no?

¶ If they answer, No: then shall the Minister proceed as followeth.

DEARLY beloved forasmuch as all men are conceived and born in
sin, and our Saviour Christ saith None can enter into the king-
dom of God except he be regenerate and born 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 mercy he will grant to
this Child that which by nature he cannot have that he may be
baptized with Water and the Holy Ghost, and received into Christ's
holy Church, and be made a living member of the same.

¶ Then shall the Minister say,
   Let us pray.
A LMIGHTY and everlasting God, who of thy great mercy didst save Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water; and also didst safely lead the children of Israel thy people through the Red Sea, figuring thereby thy holy Baptism, and by the Baptism of thy well beloved Son Jesus Christ in the river Jordan, didst sanctify Water to the mystical washing away of sin; We beseech thee, for thine infinite mercies, that thou wilt mercifully look upon this Child; wash him and sanctify him with the Holy Ghost; that he, being delivered from thy wrath, may be received into the ark of Christ's Church; and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, that finally he may come to the land of everlasting life, there foreign with thee, world without end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ Or this.

A LMIGHTY and immortal God, the aid of all who need, the helper of all who flee to thee for succour, the life of those who believe, and the resurrection of the dead; We call upon thee for this Infant, that he, coming to thy holy Baptism, may receive remission of sin, by spiritual regeneration. Receive him, O Lord, as thou hast promised by thy well-beloved Son, saying, Ask, and ye shall have; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. So give now unto us who ask; let us who seek, find; open the gate unto us who knock; that this Infant may enjoy the everlasting benediction of thy heavenly washing, and may come to the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ Then the Minister shall say as follows: or else shall pass on to the questions addressed to the Sponsors; and from thence to the Prayer immediately before the Immersion, or the pouring of water on the infant. But note; that in every church the intermediate parts of the Service shall be used, once at least in every month, (if there be a baptism) for the better instructing of the People in the Grounds of Infant Baptism.

Hear the words of the Gospel, written by Saint Mark, in the tenth Chapter, at the thirteenth Verse.

THEY brought young children to Christ, that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

¶ After the Gospel is read, the Minister shall make this brief exhortation upon the words of the Gospel.

BELoved, ye hear in this Gospel the words of our Saviour Christ, that he commanded the children to be brought unto him; how he blamed those who would have kept them from him; how he exhorted all men to follow their innocency. Ye perceive how, by his outward gesture and deed, he declared his good will toward them; for he embraced them in his arms, he laid his hands upon them, and blessed them. Doubt ye not therefore, but earnestly believe, that he will likewise favourably receive this present Infant; that he will embrace him with the arms of his mercy; that he will give unto him the blessing of eternal life and make him partaker of his everlasting kingdom.

Wherefore we being thus persuaded of the good will of our heavenly Father towards this Infant, declared by his Son Jesus Christ; and nothing doubting but that he favourably alloweth all charitable work of ours in bringing this Infant to his holy Baptism; let us faithfully and devoutly give thanks unto him, and say,

A 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 evermore. Give thy Holy Spirit to this Infant, that he may be born again, and be made an heir of everlasting salvation; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now for ever. Amen.

¶ Then shall the Minister speak unto the Godfathers and Godmothers on this wise.

Dearly beloved, ye have brought this Child here to be baptized; ye have prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would vouchsafe to receive him, to release him from sin, to sanctify him with the Holy Ghost, to give him the kingdom of heaven, and everlasting life. Ye have heard also that our Lord Jesus Christ hath promised in his Gospel to grant all those things that ye have prayed for: which promise he, for his part, will most surely keep and perform.

Wherefore after this promise made by Christ, this Infant must also faithfully, for his part, promise by you that are his sureties (until he come of age to take it upon himself) that he will renounce the devil and all his works, and constantly believe God's holy Word, and obediently keep his commandments.

¶ The Minister shall then demand of the Sponsors as follows: the questions being considered as addressed to them severally, and the answers to be made accordingly.

I demand therefore,

DOST thou, in the name of this Child, renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow, nor be led by them?

Answer. I renounce them all; and, by God's help, will endeavour not to follow, nor be led by them.
Minister. Dost thou believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith, as contained in the Apostles’ Creed?

Answer. I do.

Minister. Wilt thou be baptized in this Faith?

Answer. That is my desire.

Minister. Wilt thou then obediently keep God’s holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life?

Answer. I will; by God’s help.

† Then shall the Minister say,

O MERCIFUL God, grant that the old Adam in this Child may be so buried, that the new man may be raised up in him. Amen. Grant that all sinful affections may die in him, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in him. Amen. Grant that he may have power and strength to have victory, and to triumph, against the devil, the world, and the flesh. Amen. Grant that whosoever is here dedicated to thee by our office and ministry, may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly rewarded, through thy mercy, O blessed Lord God, who dost live, and govern all things, world without end. Amen.

ALMIGHTY, everliving God, whose most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins, did shed out of his most precious side both water and blood; and gave commandment to his disciples, that they should go teach all nations, and baptize them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Regard, we beseech thee, the supplications of thy congregation; and yield thee hearty thanks most merciful Father, that it hath pleased thee to regenerate this Infant with thy Holy Spirit, to receive him for thine own Child by adoption, and to incorporate him into thy holy Church. And humbly we beseech thee to grant, that he, being dead unto sin, and living unto righteousness, and being buried with Christ in his death may crucify the old man, and utterly abolish the whole body of sin; and that, as he is made partaker of the death of thy Son, he may also be partaker of his resurrection; so that finally, with the residue of thy holy Church, he may he an inheritor of thine everlasting kingdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

† Then shall the Minister say.

Then the Minister shall take the Child into his hands, and shall say to the Godfathers and Godmothers,

Name this Child.

† And then, naming it after then, he shall dip it in the Water discreetly, or shall pour Water upon it, saying,

I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

† Then the Minister shall say,

We receive this Child into the congregation of Christ’s flock; and do* sign him with the sign of the Cross, in token that hereafter he shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified and manfully to fight under his banner,* Here the Minister shall make a Cross upon the child’s forehead.

against sin, the world, and the devil; and to continue Christ’s faithful soldier and servant unto his life’s end. Amen.

† If those who present the Infant shall desire the sign of the Cross to be omitted, although the Church knows no worthy cause of scruple concerning the same, yet, in that case the Minister may omit that part of the above which follows the Immersion or the pouring of Water on the Infant.

† Then shall the Minister say,

SEEING now dearly beloved brethren that this Child is regenerate and grafted into the body of Christ’s Church, let us give thanks unto Almighty God for these benefits; and with one accord make our prayers unto him, that this Child may lead the rest of his life according to this beginning.

† Then shall be said all kneeling,

OUR Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

† Then shall the Minister say,

We yield thee hearty thanks most merciful Father, that it hath pleased thee to regenerate this Infant with thy Holy Spirit, to receive him for thine own Child by adoption, and to incorporate him into thy holy Church. And humbly we beseech thee to grant, that he, being dead unto sin, and living unto righteousness, and being buried with Christ in his death may crucify the old man, and utterly abolish the whole body of sin; and that, as he is made partaker of the death of thy Son, he may also be partaker of his resurrection; so that finally, with the residue of thy holy Church, he may he an inheritor of thine everlasting kingdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

† Then, all standing up, the Minister shall say to the Godfathers and Godmothers this Exhortation following.

FORASMUCH as this Child hath promised by you his sureties to renounce the devil and all his works, to believe in God, and to serve him; ye must remember, that it is your parts and duties to see that this Infant be taught, so soon as he shall be able to learn, what a solemn vow, promise, and profession, he hath here made by you. And that he may know these things the better, ye shall call upon him to hear Sermons; and chiefly ye shall provide, that he may learn the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his soul’s health; and that this Child may be virtuously brought up to lead a godly and a Christian life; remembering always, that Baptism doth represent unto us 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 again for us, so should we, who are baptized, die from sin, and rise again unto righteousness; continually mortifying all our evil and corrupt affections, and daily proceeding in all virtue and godliness of living.

¶ Then shall he add, and say,

Ye are to take care that this Child be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him, so soon as he can say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and is sufficiently instructed in the other parts of the Church-Catechism set forth for that purpose.

THE MINISTRATION OF
PRIVATE BAPTISM OF CHILDREN,
IN HOUSES.

¶ The Minister of every Parish shall often admonish the People, that they defer not the Baptism of their Children longer than the first or second Sunday next after their birth, or other Holy Day falling between, unless upon great and reasonable cause.

¶ And also they shall warn them, that without like great cause and necessity they procure not their Children to be baptized at home in their houses. But when need shall compel them so to do, then Baptism shall be administered as followeth.

¶ First, let the Minister of the Parish (or in his absence any other lawful Minister that can be procured) with those who are present, call upon God, and say the Lord's Prayer, and so many of the Collects appointed to be said before in the Form of Public Baptism, as the time and present exigence will suffer. And then, the Child being named by some one who is present, the Minister shall pour Water upon it, saying these words:

N. I baptize thee In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

¶ Then the Minister shall give thanks unto God, and say,

Ye yield thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that it hath pleased thee to regenerate this Infant with thy Holy Spirit, to receive him for thine own Child by adoption, and to incorporate him into the holy Church. And humbly we beseech thee to grant, that he, being dead unto sin and living unto righteousness, and being buried with Christ in his death, may crucify the old man, and utterly abolish the whole body of sin; and that, as he is made partaker of the death of thy Son, he may also be partaker of his resurrection, so that finally, with the residue of thy holy Church he may be an inheritor of thine everlasting kingdom, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ And let them not doubt but that the Child so baptized is lawfully and sufficiently baptized, and ought not to be baptized again. Yet nevertheless, if the Child, which is after this sort baptized, do afterwards live, it is expedient that it be brought into the Church, to the intent that if the Minister of the same parish did himself baptize that Child, the Congregation may be certified of the true Form of Baptism, by him privately before used: In which case he shall say thus:

ICERTIFY you that according to the due and prescribed Order of the Church at such a time and at such a place, before divers witnesses I baptized this Child.

¶ But if the child were baptised by any other lawful Minister, then the Minister of the Parish where the Child was born or christened, shall examine whether the same hath been lawfully done. And if the Minister shall find, by the answers of such as bring the Child, that all things were done as they ought to be; then shall he not christen the Child again, but shall receive him as one of the flock of true Christian People saying thus:

ICERTIFY you, that in this case all is well done, and according unto due order, concerning the baptizing of this Child; who is now by Baptism incorporated into the Christian Church: for our Lord Jesus Christ doth not deny his grace and mercy unto such Infants, but most lovingly doth call them unto him, as the holy Gospel doth witness to our comfort on this wise.

¶ Then the Minister shall say as follows, or else shall pass on to the questions addressed to the Sponsors.

Hear the words of the Gospel, written by Saint Mark, in the tenth Chapter, at the thirteenth Verse.

THEY brought young children to Christ, that he should touch them; and his disciples rebuked those that brought them But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

¶ After the Gospel is read, the Minister shall make this brief Exhortation upon the words of the Gospel.

BELOVED, ye hear in this Gospel the words of our Saviour Christ, that he commanded the children to be brought unto him; how he blamed those who would have kept them from him; how he exhorted all men to follow their innocency. Ye perceive how, by his outward gesture and deed, he declared his good will toward them; for he embraced them in his arms, he laid his hands upon them, and blessed them. Doubt ye not therefore, but earnestly believe, that he hath likewise favourably received this present Infant; that he hath embraced him with the arms of his mercy; and, as he hath promised in his holy Word, will give unto him the blessing of eternal life, and make him partaker of his everlasting kingdom.

Wherefore, we being thus persuaded of the good will of our heavenly Father, declared by his Son Jesus Christ, towards this Infant, let us faithfully and devoutly give thanks unto him, and say the Prayer which the Lord himself taught us.
O
UR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy
kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, As it is in heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we
forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into
temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Then shall the Minister demand the name of the Child; which being by the
Godfathers and Godmothers pronounced, the Minister shall say as follows.

DOST thou in the name of this Child renounce the devil and all his
works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous
desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that thou
will not follow nor be led by them?

Answer. I renounce them all, and, by God's help, will endeavour
to follow nor be led by them.

Minister. Dost thou believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith,
as contained in the Apostle's Creed?

Answer. I do.

Minister. Wilt thou then obediently keep God's holy will and
commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life?

Answer. I will, by God's help.

Then shall the Minister shall say,

WE receive this Child into the congregation
of Christ's flock, and do* sign him with
the sign of the Cross, in token that hereafter
he shall not be ashamed to confess the faith Of
Christ crucified, and manfully to fight under
his banner, against sin, the world, and the devil; and to continue
Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto his life's end. Amen.

The same rule is to be observed here, as to the omission of the sign of the
Cross, as in the Public Baptism of Infants.

Then shall the Minister say,

SEEING now, dearly beloved brethren, that this Child is
regenerate, and grafted into the body of Christ's Church, let is
give thanks unto Almighty God for these benefits; and with one
accord make our prayers unto him that
this Child may lead the rest
of his life according to this beginning.

Then shall be said, all kneeling,

WE yield thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that it hath
pleased thee to regenerate this Infant with thy Holy Spirit to
receive him for thine own Child by adoption, and to incorporate him
into thy holy Church. And humbly we beseech thee to grant, that he
being dead unto sin, and living unto righteousness, and being buried
with Christ in his death, may crucify the old man, and utterly abolish
the whole body of sin; and that, as he is made partaker of the death
of thy Son, he may also be partaker of his resurrection; so that

finally, with the residue of thy holy Church, he may be an inheritor
of thine everlasting kingdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then, all standing up, the Minister shall say to the Godfathers and God-
mothers this Exhortation following.

FORASMUCH as this Child hath promised by you his sureties to
renounce the devil and all his works, to believe in God, and to
serve him; ye must remember, that it is your parts and duties to see
that this Infant be taught, so soon as he shall be able to learn, what
a solemn vow, promise, and profession, he hath here made by you.
And that he may know these things the better, ye shall call upon him
to hear Sermons; and chiefly ye shall provide, that he may learn the
Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and all
other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his
soul's health; and that this Child may be virtuously brought up to
lead a godly and a Christian life; remembering always, that Baptism
doth represent unto us 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 again for us, so should we, who are baptized, die
from sin, and rise again unto righteousness; continually mortifying
all our evil and corrupt actions, and daily proceeding in all virtue
and godliness of living.

Then shall he add, and say,

WE are to take care that this Child be brought to the Bishop to be
confirmed by him, so soon as he can say the Creed, the Lord's
Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and is sufficiently instructed
in the other parts of the Church-Catechism set forth for that
purpose.

But if they who bring the Infant to the Church do make such uncertainty
Answers to the Minister's Questions, that it cannot appear that the Child
was baptized with Water, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and
of the Holy Ghost, (which are essential parts of Baptism,) then let the
Minister baptize it in the Form before appointed for Public Baptism of
Infants; saving that at the dipping of the Child in the Font, he shall use this
Form of words:

If thou art not already baptized, N. I baptize thee In the Name of the

If Infant Baptism, and the receiving of Infants baptized in private, are to be
at the same time, the Minister may make the Questions to the Sponsors,
and the succeeding Prayers, serve for both. And again, after the Immersion,
or the pouring of Water, and the receiving into the Church, the
Minister may use the remainder of the Service for both.
THE MINISTRATION OF
BAPTISM TO SUCH AS ARE OF RIPER YEARS,
AND ABLE TO ANSWER FOR THEMSELVES.

† When any such Persons as are of ripier years are to be baptized, timely
notice shall be given to the Minister that so due care may be taken for their
examination, whether they be sufficiently instructed in the Principles
of the Christian Religion, and that they may be exhorted to prepare them-
theselves, with Prayers and Fasting, for the receiving of this holy Sacrament.
† And if they shall be found fit, then the Godfathers and Godmothers (the
People being assembled upon the Sunday, Holy Day, or Prayer Day
appointed) shall be ready to present them at the Font, immediately after
the second Lesson, either at Morning or Evening Prayer as the Minister,
in his discretion, shall think fit.
† And standing there, the Minister shall ask, whether any of the Persons here
presented be baptized, or no: If they shall answer, No; then shall the
Minister say thus:

DEARLY beloved, forasmuch as all men are conceived and born
in sin, (and that which is born of the flesh is flesh,) so they who
are in the flesh cannot please God but live in sin, committing many
actual transgressions; and our Saviour Christ saith, None can enter
into the kingdom of God, except he be regenerate and born 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
goodness he will grant to these Persons that which by nature they
cannot have; that they may be baptized with Water and the Holy
Ghost, and received into Christs holy Church, and be made
members of the same.

† Then shall the Minister say,

Let us pray

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who of thy great mercy didst
save Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water; and
also didst safely lead the children of Israel thy people through the
Red Sea, figuring thereby thy holy Baptism; and by the Baptism of
thy well-beloved Son Jesus Christ, in the river Jordan, didst sanctify
the element of Water to the mystical washing away of sin; We
beseech thee, for thine infinite mercies, that thou wilt mercifully
look upon these thy Servants; wash them and sanctify them with the
Holy Ghost; that they, being delivered from thy wrath, may be
received into the ark of Christ's Church; and being steadfast in faith,
joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may so pass the waves of
this troublesome world that finally they may come to the land of
everlasting life, there to reign with thee, world without end; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

† Or this.

ALMIGHTY and immortal God, the aid of all who need, the helper
of all who flee to thee for succour, the life of those who believe,
and the resurrection of the dead; We call upon thee for these thy
Servants, that they, coming to thy holy Baptism, may receive
remission of their sins, by spiritual regeneration. Receive them, O
Lord, as thou hast promised by thy well-beloved Son, saying, Ask,
and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be
opened unto you. So give now unto us who ask; let us who seek, find;
open the gate unto us who knock; that these thy Servants may enjoy
the everlasting benediction of thy heavenly washing, and may come to
the eternal kingdom which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

† Then the Minister shall say,

Hear the words of the Gospel, written by Saint John, in the third
Chapter, beginning at the first Verse.

THERE was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler
of the Jews. The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him,
Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no man
can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus
answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except
a man be born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Nicodemus
saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter
the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus
answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of
water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of
the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born
again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound
thereof; but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so
is every one that is born of the Spirit.

† After which he shall say the exhortation following.

BELoved, ye hear in this Gospel the express words of our
Saviour Christ, that except a man be born of Water and of the
Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. Whereby ye may
 perceive the great necessity of this Sacrament, where it may be had.
Likewise, immediately before his ascension into heaven, (as we read
in the last Chapter of Saint Marks Gospel,) he gave command to his
disciples, saying, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to
every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but
he that believeth not shall be damned. Which also showeth unto us the great benefit we reap thereby. For which cause Saint Peter the Apostle, when upon his first preaching of the Gospel many were pricked at the heart, and said to him and the rest of the Apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? replied and said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is to you and your children, and to all that are afar off; even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words exhorted he them, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. For (as the same Apostle testifieth in another place) even Baptism doth also now save us, (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience towards God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Doubt ye not therefore, but earnestly believe, that he will favourably receive these present Persons, truly repenting, and coming unto him by faith; that he will grant them remission of their sins, and bestow upon them the Holy Ghost; that he will give them the blessing of eternal life, and make them partakers of his everlasting kingdom.

Wherefore we being thus persuaded of the good will of our heavenly Father toward these Persons, declared by his Son Jesus Christ; let us faithfully and devoutly give thanks to him, and say,

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, heavenly Father, we give thee humble thanks, for 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 evermore. Give thy Holy Spirit to these Persons, that they may be born again, 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 shall the Minister say,

WELL-BELOVED, who are come hither desiring to receive holy Baptism, ye have heard how the congregation hath prayed, that our Lord Jesus Christ would vouchsafe to receive you and bless you, to release you of your sins, to give you the kingdom of heaven, and everlasting life. Ye have heard also, that our Lord Jesus Christ hath promised in his holy Word to grant all those things that we have prayed for; which promise he, for his part, will most surely keep and perform. Wherefore, after this promise made by Christ, ye must also faithfully, for your part, in the presence of these your Witnesses, and this whole congregation, promise and answer to the following Questions.

¶ Then shall the Minister say to each Person to be baptized by the right hand; and placing him conveniently by the Font according to his discretion, shall ask the Godfathers and Godmothers the Name; and then shall dip him in the water, or pour water upon him, saying,

I baptize thee In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Question.

DoST thou renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that thou wilt not follow, nor be led by them?

Answer. I renounce them all; and, by God's help, will endeavour not to follow, nor be led by them.

Question. Dost thou believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith, as contained in the Apostles' Creed?

Answer. Yes.

Question. Wilt thou be baptized in this Faith?

Answer. That is my desire.

Question. Wilt thou then obediently keep God's holy will and commandments and walk in the same all the days of thy life?

Answer. I will by God's help.

¶ Then shall the Minister say,

O merciful God grant that the old Adam in these Persons may be so buried that the new man may be raised up in them. Amen. Grant that all sinful 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 devil, the world, and the flesh. Amen. Grant that they, being here dedicated to thee by our office and ministry, may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlasting-ly rewarded, through thy mercy, O blessed Lord God, who dost live, and govern all things, world without end. Amen.

ALMIGHTY, everliving God, whose most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins, did shed out of his most precious side both water and blood; and gave commandment to his disciples, that they should go teach all nations, and baptize them In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Regard, we beseech thee, the supplications of thy congregation; sanctify this Water to the mystical washing away of sin and grant that the Persons now to be baptized therein may receive the fulness of thy grace, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful children, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ Then shall the Minister say,

I baptize thee In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.
Then shall the Minister say,

We receive this Person into the congregation of Christ’s flock; and do* sign him with the sign of the Cross, in token that hereafter he shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and manifoldly to fight under his banner, against sin, the world, and the devil; and to continue Christ’s faithful soldier and servant unto his life’s end. Amen.

¶ The same rule, as to the omission of the sign of the Cross, is to be observed here as in the Baptism of Infants.

¶ Then shall the Minister say,

Sseeing now, dearly beloved brethren, that these Persons are regenerate, and grafted into the body of Christ’s Church, let us give thanks unto Almighty God for these benefits; and with one accord make our prayers unto him, that they may lead the rest of their life according to this beginning.

¶ Then shall be said the Lord’s Prayer, all kneeling.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

¶ And then, speaking to the baptized Persons, he shall proceed and say,

And as for you, who have now by Baptism put on Christ, it is your part and duty also, being made the children of God and of the light, by faith in Jesus Christ, to walk answer-ably in your Christian calling, and as becometh the children of light; remembering always that Baptism representeth unto us 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 again for us, so should we, who are baptized, die from sin, and rise again unto righteousness, continually mortifying all our evil and corrupt affections, and daily proceeding in all virtue and godliness of living.

¶ It is expedient that every Person, thus baptized, should be confirmed by the Bishop, as soon after the Baptism as conveniently may be; that so he may be admitted in the Holy Communion.

¶ Whereas necessity may require the baptizing of Adults in private houses in consideration of extreme sickness; the same is hereby allowed in that case. And a convenient number of persons shall he assembled in the house where the Sacrament is to be performed. And in the exhortation, well-beloved, &c., instead of these words, come hither desiring, shall be inserted this word, desirous.

¶ If there is occasion for the Office of Infant Baptism and that of Adults at the same time, the Minister shall use the exhortation and one of the prayers next following in the Office for Adults, only, in the exhortation and prayer, after the words, these Persons, and these thy servants, adding, and these Infants. Then the Minister shall proceed to the questions to be demanded in the cases respectively. After the immersion, or the pouring of water, the prayer shall be as in this service; only, after the words, these Persons shall he added, and these Infants. After which the remaining part of each service shall he used; first that for Adults, and lastly that for Infants.

¶ If any persons not baptized in their infancy shall be brought to be baptized before they come to years of discretion to answer for themselves, it may suffice to use the Office for Public Baptism of Infants; or, in case of extreme danger, the Office for Private Baptism only changing the word Infant, for Child, or Person, as occasion requireth.

¶ Then shall the Minister say,

Forasmuch as these Persons have promised, in your presence, to renounce the devil and all his works, to believe in God, and to serve him; ye must remember, that it is your part and duty to put them in mind, what a solemn vow, promise, and profession, they have now made before this congregation, and especially before you their chosen witnesses. And ye are also to call upon them to use all diligence to be rightly instructed in God’s holy Word; that so they may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and live godly, righteously, and soberly, in this present world.