

The 1559 Book of Common Prayer,

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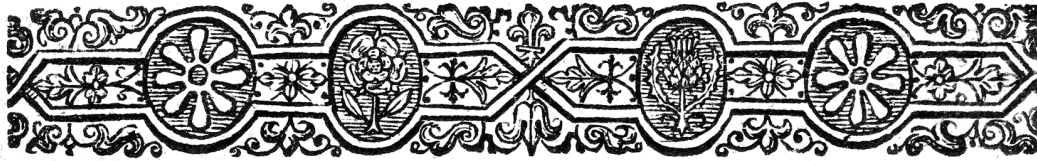
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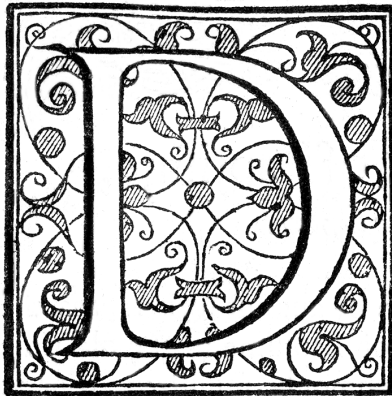


• The Ministration of Baptisme, *to bee vsed in the Church.*



T 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 al the congregation. Which custome now being growne out of vse, (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 bee 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 testifie the receiuing of them that be newly baptized, into the number of Christs Church, as also because in the Baptisme of Infants, euery 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 he baptized vpon the Sunday, or Holy-day, the Parents shal giue knowledge ouer 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 be baptized or no. If they aunswere, No: Then shall the Priest say thus.



Carely beloued, forasmuche as all men be conceiued and borne in sin, and that our Sauour Christ saith, None can enter into the kingdome of God, except hee bee regenerate, and borne anew of water and of the Holy Golt: I beleech you to call vpon God the Father, through our lord Iesus 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 Gholt, and receiued into Christs holy Church, and be made liuely members of the same.

Then shall the Priest say.

¶ Let vs praye.




Umightie and euerlasting GOD, whiche of thy great mercie diddest laue Noe and his familie in the Arcke, from perishing by water, and also diddest safely lead the children of Israel, thy people, throrow the Red Sea, figuring therby thy holy Baptisme: and by the Baptisme of thy welbeloued Son Iesus Christ, diddest sanctifie the flood Jordan, and all other waters, to the mylticall washing away of sinne: We beleech thee for thine infinite mercies, that thou wilt mercifully look vpon these children, sanctifie them and wash them with thy holy Golt, that they being deliuered from thy wrath, may bee receiued into the Arcke of Christs Church, and being stedfast in faith, ioyfull through hope, and rooted in charitie, may so passe the waues of this troublelome world, that finally they may come to the land of euerlasting life, there to reigne with thee world without end, through Iesus Christ our Lorde. Amen.



Umighty and immortall God, the aide of all that neede, the helper of all that flee to thee for succour, the life of them that beleeue, and the resurrection of the dead: wee call vpon thee for these Infants, that they comming to thy holy Baptisme, may receiue remission of their sinnes by spirituall regeneration. Receiue them (O Lord) as thou halt promised by thy


welbeloued Sonne, saying: Alke and you shall haue; seeke, and you shall finde: knocke and it shall bee opened vnto you: So giue now vnto vs that alke. Let vs that seeke, finde open the gate vnto vs that knocke, that these Infantes may enioy the euerlasting benediction of thy heauenly washing, and may come to the eternall Kingdome which thou hast promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ Then shall the Priest saye
Heare the words of the Gospel, written by S. Marke,
in the tenth Chapter.

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

Mar. 10. 13

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

 Friends, ye heare in this Gospel the words of our Sauour Christ, that he commaunded the children to be brought vnto him: how he blamed those that woulde haue kepte them from him: how he exhorted all men to follow their innocencie. You perceiue 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 therefore, but earnestly beleue that he will likewise fauourably receiue 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 euerlasting Kingdome. Wherfore we being thus perswaded of the good will of our heauenly father, towardes these Infantes declared by his Sonne Iesus Christ, and nothing doubting,

but that hee fauourably alloweth this charitable worke of ours, in bringing these children to his holye Baptisme: let vs faithfully and deuoutly giue thanks vnto him, and say,



Almighty and euerlasting God, heauenly Father, we giue thee humble thanks, that thou hast vouchsafed to call vs to the knowledge of thy grace and faith in thee: Increase this knowledge, and confirme this faith in vs euermore: Giue thy holy Spirit to these infants, that they may be borne againe, and be made heires of euerlasting Saluacion, through our Lord Iesus Christ, who liueth and reigneth with thee and the holy Spirit, now and for euer. Amen.

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



Beloued friends, yee haue brought these children here to bee baptized, ye haue prayed that our Lord Iesus Christ, would vouchsafe to receiue them, to lay his hands vpon them, to blesse them, to releafe them of their sinnes, to giue them the Kingdome of heauen, and euerlasting life. Yee haue heard also that our Lord Iesus Christ hath promised in his Gospel, to grant all these things that ye haue prayed for: which promise he for his part will most surely keepe and performe. Wherefore after this promise made by Christ, these infants must also faithfully for their part promise by you that be their sureties, that they will forsake the deuill 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 forsake the deuill 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?

Aunswere.

I forsake them all.

The Minister.

Doest thou beleue in God the father almighty, maker of heauen and earth? And in Iesus Christ his onely begotten

Sonne our Lord? And that hee was conceived by the holy Ghost, borne of the Virgin Mary, that he suffered vnder 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 sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from thence shall come againe at the end of the world, to iudge the quicke and the dead? And doest thou beleue in the holy Ghost the holy Catholicque Church, the Communion of Saints, the remission of synnes, the resurrection of the fleshe, and euerlasting life after death?

Aunfwere.

All this I stedfastly beleue.

Minister.

Wylt thou be baptized in this faith?

Aunfwere.

That is 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 up in them. Amen.

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

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

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



Almighty euerliuing God, whose most derely beloued Sonne Iesus Christe, for the forgiuenesse of our sinnes, did shed out his molte precious side both water and blood, and gaue commaundement 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 beseech thee, the supplications of thy Congregation, and grant that all thy ser-

wants which shall bee baptized in this water, may receiue the fulnesse of thy grace, and euer remaine in the number of thy faithfull and elect children, through Iesus Christ our Lord. Amen.


¶ Then the Priest shal 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, saying,

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, saying the foresaid 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 Crosse vpon the Childes forehead, saying:

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


Then shall the Priest say,

 eing 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 yelde thee hearty thankes most mercifull Father, that it hath pleased thee to regenerate this Infant with thy holy Spirite, to receiue him for thine owne childe by adoption, and to incorporate him into thy holy Congregation. And humbly we

beleche thee to grant that he being dead vnto sinne, and lyuing vnto righteoulnesse, and being buried with Christ in his death, may crucify the old man, and vtterly 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 thine euerlasting Kingdome. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

FOrasmuch as these children haue promised by you to forsake the deuill and hil workes, to beleue in God, and to serue him, you must remember that it is your parts and duties to see that these Infants be taughte, so soone as they shall be able to learne, what a solemne vow, promise, and professiion they haue made by you. And that they may know these things the better; yee shall call vpon them to heare Sermons, and chiefly you shall prouide 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 loules health, and that these children may bee vertuoulsly brought vp, to leade a godly and a Christian life, remembring alwayes that Baptisme doeth represent vnto vs our professiion, which is, to follow the example of our Sauour Christ, and to be made like vnto him, that as he died and rose againe for vs: so should we whiche are baptized, die from sinne, and rise again vnto righteoulnesse, continually mortifiyng all our euill and corrupt affections, and dayly proceeding in all vertue and godlynesse of liuing.

¶ The Minister shal command that the children bee brought to the Byshop to be confyrmmed of him, so soone as they can say in their vulgar tongue, the Articles of the Faith, the Lords prayer, and the ten Commandementes, and be further instructed in the Catechisme set foorth for that purpose, accordingly as it is there expressed.

☛ *Of them that are to be baptized in priuate 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 approoued.

¶ 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 Baptisme shall be administered in this fashion.

¶ 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 sort 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 Parish did himself baptize that childe, the Congregation may be certified of the true forme of Baptisme by him priuately before vsed: or if the child were baptized by any other lawfull Minister, that then the Minister of the Parish where the childe was borne or Christened, shall examine and trie, whether this childe be lawfully baptized, or no. In which case, if those that bring any childe to the Church, do answer that the same child is already baptized, then shall the Minister examine them further, saying,

By whom was the childe baptized?

Who was present when the childe was baptized?

And because somethings essentiall to this Sacrament may happen to bee omitted through feare or halte in such 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 shal not hee Christen the childe againe, but shall receiue him as one of the flocke of the true Christian people, saying thus,

Certifie you, that in this case all is well done, and according vnto due order concerning the baptizing of this childe, which being borne in originall sinne and in the wrath of God, is nowe by the lauer of regeneration in Baptisme, receiued into the number of the children of God, and heires of euerlasting life: for our Lord Iesus Christ doeth not deny his grace and mercy vnto such Infants, but most louingly 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 thole that brought them. But when Iesus 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 receiue the Kingdome of God as a little childe, hee shall not enter therein. And when he had taken them vp in his armes, he put his hands vpon them, and blessed them.

Marke 10.

¶ 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 Sauour Christe, that he commanded the chyl dren to be brought vnto him: how he blamed thole that would haue kepte them from him, how hee exhorted all men to follow their innocencie: See 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 receiued 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. Wherefore wee beeing thus perswaded of the good will of our heauenly Father, declared by his Sonne Iesus Christ towards this Infant, Let vs faithfully and de-

voutly giue thankes vnto him, and say the prayer, which the Lord himselke taught, and in declaration of our Faith, let vs recite the Articles contained in our Creed.

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

¶ Our Father which art in heauen, &c.

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

Doelt thou in the name of this childe forsfake the deuill and all his workes, the vaine pompe and glory of the world, with all the couetouls desires of the same, the carnall desires of the flesh, and not to follow and be led by them?

Anfwere.

I forsfake them all.

Minister.

Doelt thou in the name of this childe professe this faith, to beleue in God the Father Almighty, maker of heauen and earth? And in Iesus Christ his onely begotten Sonne our Lord? and that hee was conceived by the holy Gholt, borne of the Virgin Mary, that hee suffered vnder Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, that he wet downe into hell, and also did rise againe the third daye, that hee ascended into heauen, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and from thence he shall come againe at the end of the world, to iudge the quicke and the dead? And doe you in his name beleue in the holy Gholt the holy Catholique Church, the Communion of Saints, the Remission of sinnes, Resurreccion, and euerlasting life after death?

Aunfwere.

All this I steadfastly beleue.

¶ Let vs pray.



Iesus Christ, may continue thy seruant, and attaine thy promise, through the same our Lord Iesus Christ thy Sonne, who liueth and reigneth with thee in the vnyty of the same holy Spirit euerlastingly. Amen.

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



Oralmuch as this childe hath promised by you to forsake the deuill and al his workes, to beleue in God, and to serue him: you must remember that it is your part and duety, to see that this Infant be taught, so soone as hee shall bee able to learne what a solemne vow, promise, and profession hee hath made by you. And that hee may know these thinges the better, yee shall call vpon him to heare Sermons, and chiefly you shall prouide 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 vp, to leade a godly and a christian life, remembring alway that Baptisme doth reprelent vnto vs our profession, which is, to follow the example of our Sauour Christ, and be made like vnto him, that as hee died and rose againe for vs, so shoulde wee which are baptized, die from sinne, and rise againe vnto righteoul-

nelle, continually mortifying all our euill and corrupt affections, and daily proceeding in all vertue, and godlinesse of liuing.

And so foorth, as in publique Baptisme.

¶ But if they which bring the Infants to the Church, doe make such vncertaine aunswers to the Priests queffions, 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 essentiall parts of Baptisme: then let the Priest baptize It in form aboue written, concerning publique Baptisme, saying that at the dipping of the Childe in the Font, he shall vse this forme of wordes.



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