

BAPTISM UPON PROFESSION OF FAITH

The minister offers of brief exhortation on the doctrine of baptism. The minister shall remind those present of the meaning of the sacrament as a sign and seal of engrafting, remission of sin, regeneration by the Spirit, adoption, and resurrection to everlasting life. All should be reminded to be thankful for their own baptism with its benefits and privileges, to be humble because of sin and walking contrary to the grace given us, and to draw strength from the death and resurrection of Christ, into whom we were baptized.¹

The minister invites the candidate forward. The minister asks the candidate to affirm the following vows:

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God and without hope for your salvation except in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of sinners, and do you receive and depend upon Him alone for your salvation as He is offered in the gospel?
3. Do you now promise and resolve, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to serve Christ in His Church by supporting and participating with this congregation in its service of God and its ministry to others to the best of your ability?

¹EPC Book of Worship 3-2

5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and to the spiritual oversight of this Church Session, and do you promise to promote the unity, purity, and peace of the Church?

The minister then asks the congregation to affirm the following vow:

Do you, the members of this congregation, and in the name of the visible Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, take responsibility for the continued Christian nurture of N—, promising to set a godly example by your own life, and to pray for N— in this new life of faith?

The minister prays, consecrating the water for its purpose.

O Lord, You have not left us as strangers without the covenant of promise, but have called us to the privileges of Your ordinances. Sanctify and bless Your own ordinance of baptism at this time. Join the inward baptism of Your Spirit with the outward baptism of water; make this baptism a seal of adoption, remission of sin, regeneration, and eternal life, and all other promises of the covenant of grace. We pray this, resting in the promises of Your Word and in the power of Your Spirit through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then, the minister baptizes the candidate, using the following formula and without any additional ceremony.

N—, upon your profession of faith and promise of obedience to Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The minister concludes with a brief prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, prefiguring this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood, and a lavish washing away of sin. We pray that You would behold N— according to Your boundless mercy and bless *him* with true faith by the Holy Spirit that through this saving flood all sin in *him* which has been inherited from Adam and which *he himself* has committed since would be drowned and die. Grant that *he* be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, *he* would be declared worthy of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.