

# Anniversary of Baptism

## Evangelical Lutheran Worship

*This order is intended for use in the home.  
It may be adapted for use in another context, such as Sunday School.  
When used in the home, a parent or sponsor may be the leader.  
A bowl of water may be placed in the midst of those who are present.*

### GATHERING

*A baptismal hymn may be sung (see ELW #209-217, 442-459).  
The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

*The candle received at baptism or another candle may be lighted.*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
**the light no darkness can overcome.**

Let your light so shine before others  
that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

**Amen**

### WORD

*One or more scripture readings follow. Those present may share in reading.*

*A reading from Romans:* Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (*Romans 6:3-5*)

*A reading from Galatians:* In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (*Galatians 3:26-28*)

*A reading from Second Corinthians:* If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

*A reading from Mark:* People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. (*Mark 10:13-14, 16*)

*A reading from Ephesians:* Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. (*Ephesians 4:1-6*)

*A reading from First John:* Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (*1 John 4:7*)

*Other suggested readings for this service:*

*John 3:1-8: Born again from above*

*Romans 6:3-11: Raised with Christ in baptism*

*Colossians 1:11-13: Claimed by Christ, heirs of light*

*1 Peter 2:2-3: Long for spiritual food*

*1 Peter 2:9: Chosen in baptism to tell about God*

*Revelation 22:1-2: The river of the water of life*

*Those present may share experiences about  
baptism and their lives as baptized children of God.  
A portion of Luther's Small Catechism (ELW, pp. 1160-1167)  
may be read as part of this conversation.  
A baptismal hymn may be sung.*

## **BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE**

*A parent or sponsor may trace a cross on the forehead of the person  
celebrating a baptismal anniversary.*

*Water from a bowl placed in the midst of those present may be used.*

*Name, when you were baptized,  
you were marked with the cross of Christ forever.  
Remember your baptism with thanksgiving and joy!*

## PRAYERS

*Prayers may include the following or other appropriate prayers.  
Others who are present may place a hand on the head or shoulder  
of the one who is celebrating the anniversary.*

Let us pray. Gracious God,  
we thank you for the new life you give us through holy baptism.  
Especially, we ask you to bless *name* on the anniversary of *her/his* baptism. Continue to  
strengthen *name* with the Holy Spirit,  
and increase in *her/him* your gifts of grace:  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,  
the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Mighty and loving God, you made water everywhere:  
oceans and lakes, rivers and clouds.  
For creating water, we thank you.  
**Hear us, O God.**

You give us water for drinking, for washing, for playing.  
For water that gives us life and joy, we praise you.  
**Hear us, O God.**

You make us your children  
through your word of promise in the water of baptism.  
For Jesus, the Word of life, we thank you.  
**Hear us, O God.**

You wash us from sin and make us clean and new.  
For the peace of forgiveness, we praise you.  
**Hear us, O God.**

You send us your Holy Spirit to guide us and teach us.  
For all the gifts of the Spirit, we thank you.  
**Hear us, O God.**

You nourish us with your word and welcome us to your table.  
For all the ways you care for us, we praise you.  
**Hear us, O God.**

You call us to tell others about Jesus.  
For willingness to show Jesus by what we say and do, we pray to you.  
**Hear us, O God.**

You send us to help other people and to work for what is right.  
For strength to follow Jesus, we pray to you.  
**Hear us, O God.**

*Other prayers may be added.  
Those present may offer petitions and thanksgivings.  
The prayers may conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power & the glory are yours, now & forever. Amen**

## **BLESSING**

*The order may conclude with this or another suitable blessing.*

Almighty God,  
who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit  
and forgives us all our sins,  
strengthen us in all goodness  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

*The greeting of peace may be shared by all.*

## **NOTES ON THE SERVICE**

*This brief service offers a way to remember and give thanks for baptism that may be especially meaningful to children who were baptized as infants. In addition to the words and symbolic actions suggested here, photographs and stories from the baptismal day may be shared. If a child received a baptismal garment at baptism, it may be possible to wear that garment on the occasion of this remembrance.*

*Leadership of this service by a parent or sponsor is a helpful reminder of the role these persons carry out in the home and in relationship to the baptized person. The service is informal in character, and the leader should feel free to choose from the materials provided and to adapt them so that they are appropriate to the age of the one whose baptism is being celebrated and to others who are present.*

*Although this service is appropriately used on the anniversary date of a person's baptism, it may also be used as at other times (especially such as on a day when out-of-town sponsors may be visiting.*

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