



# Holy Baptism

## Pattern for Worship

In holy baptism the triune God delivers us from the forces of evil, puts our sinful self to death, gives us new birth, adopts us as children, and makes us members of the body of Christ, the church.

The Christian community at worship celebrates God's gift of baptism in a number of ways. The sacrament itself normally takes place in the midst of the worshipping assembly as a sign that in baptism we are made one with Christ and with the whole people of God. On behalf of the whole church, we promise support to new sisters and brothers, confess the faith with them, and welcome them into the body of Christ. Water connected to the Word—God's saving promise in Jesus Christ—is at the center of the baptismal celebration.

Although a person is baptized once, the gift of baptism continues throughout a Christian's life. Instruction in the faith for a life of discipleship is part of the preparation of those who are to be baptized or their parents and sponsors. The ongoing nurture of that faith is part of the congregation's ministries of formation, education, service, and evangelical witness. The additional orders in this section—Welcome to Baptism, Affirmation of Baptism, and Confession and Forgiveness—provide several ways by which God's people in worship may participate in the lifelong gift of baptism.

# Baptism

*God brings those who are baptized out of death and into life.*

## Presentation

*The Holy Spirit calls and invites us to receive God's grace. Sponsors present those to be baptized, and we promise our support.*

## Profession of Faith

*Only by God's grace can we renounce the forces of evil and the power of sin. With the whole church, we confess our faith in the triune God.*

## Thanksgiving at the Font Baptism

*With thanksgiving, God's saving deeds are remembered. Dying with Christ in baptism, the child of God is raised to new life through water and the Word.*

## Prayer for the Holy Spirit Sign of the Cross

*Additional signs proclaim the meaning of baptism. We pray that the gift of the Holy Spirit sustain the baptized. The baptized are marked with the cross of Christ forever.*

## Welcome

*The baptized are called to follow Jesus, the light of the world. We welcome new companions in the mission of God.*

*Within the service of Holy Communion, this order normally follows the hymn of the day. Or, it may replace the thanksgiving for baptism in the gathering rite.*

# Holy Baptism



## Presentation

*Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font. The assembly may be seated.*

*The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.*

**OR**

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

*Sponsors for each candidate, in turn, present the candidates.*

I present name for baptism.

*The presiding minister addresses candidates who are able to answer for themselves.*

Name, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

*Each candidate responds:* I do.

*The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves.*

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *your children* baptized into Christ?

*Response:* I do.

As you bring *your children* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *them* among God's faithful people,  
bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in *their* hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture *them* in faith and prayer,  
so that *your children* may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *your children* grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Response:* I do.

*The presiding minister addresses sponsors.*

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *these persons* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help *them* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Response:* I do.

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God, do you promise to support name/s and pray for *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

**We do.**

*The assembly stands.*

## Profession of Faith

*The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

*The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

## Thanksgiving at the Font

*The presiding minister leads the following or another form of the thanksgiving.*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## Baptism

*The presiding minister baptizes each candidate. The candidate is immersed into the water, or water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:*

\_\_\_\_\_*Name*\_\_\_\_\_, I baptize you in the name of the Father,\*

*The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:*

and of the Son,

*The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:*

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*After each baptism, the assembly may respond with one of the following, a sung alleluia, or another acclamation (#209–213).*

**Blessed be God, the source of all life,  
the word of salvation,  
the spirit of mercy.**

**OR**  
**You belong to Christ,  
in whom you have been baptized.  
Alleluia.**

\*Or, "Name is baptized in the name of the Father," ...

*Clothed with Christ in baptism, the newly baptized may receive a baptismal garment.*

*The presiding minister continues:*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

*Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:*

Sustain name with the gift of your Holy Spirit: 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, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized.*

*Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:*

Name, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

## Welcome

*A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:*

**OR**

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Let your light so shine before others  
Whoever follows me that they may see your good works  
will have the light of life. and glorify your Father in heaven.

*The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:  
join us in giving thanks and praise to God  
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

*Those who have gathered at the font may return to their places. An acclamation (#209–215), psalm, or hymn may be sung.*

*The service continues with the prayers of intercession, or, if baptism has taken place in the gathering rite, with the greeting.*



# Welcome to Baptism



Baptism includes instruction and nurture in the faith for a life of discipleship. When infants and young children are baptized, the parents and sponsors receive instruction and the children are taught throughout their development. Adults and older children receive instruction and formation for faith and ministry in the world both prior to baptism (a period that may be called the catechumenate) and following baptism.

Welcome to Baptism may be used with those who are beginning a public relationship with a Christian congregation as they inquire into Christian faith and life. Infants and children may be brought to this welcome by parents and sponsors. The order is for use within the principal gathering of the assembly. Either the presentation section or the sign of the cross section may be used, or both may be used.

## Presentation

*In the gathering rite, those being welcomed and their sponsors may gather with the ministers at the entrance to the church or in front of the assembly. The assembly faces them.*

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Dear friends, we gather today with *these people* who have been called by God's Spirit to inquire into the Christian faith and life. Together, let us welcome *them* to this community of faith in Jesus Christ.

*Those who are being welcomed are presented by name.*

*The presiding minister addresses the sponsors and the assembly.*

People of God, will you help *these people* hear the gospel of Jesus Christ within this household of faith?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**



*The assisting minister addresses those who have been presented.*

      Name/s      , gather with this community of faith and hear the word of God with us.

*The service continues with gathering song. Those who have met at the entrance may join the entering procession and take their places in the assembly.*

## Sign of the Cross

*Following the hymn of the day, those being welcomed and their sponsors come before the assembly.*

*A sponsor for each person being welcomed traces a cross on the person's forehead as the presiding minister says:*

Receive the **+** sign of the cross, a sign of God's endless love and mercy for you.

*The assembly responds (a musical setting is at #216):*

**Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.**

*A Bible may be presented to each person being welcomed.*

*The presiding minister blesses those who are being welcomed. At the conclusion of the prayer, the people respond **Amen.***

*The assisting minister addresses those being welcomed.*

God bring you in peace and joy to fullness of life in Christ  
and call you to the waters of baptism.

*The assembly responds (a musical setting is at #217):*

**May the God of all grace, who has called you to glory,  
support you and make you strong.**

*Those who have come forward return to their places. The service continues with the prayers of intercession.*



# Affirmation of Baptism



Affirmation of Baptism may be used at many times in the life of a baptized Christian. It is especially appropriate as part of a process of formation in faith in youth or adulthood (confirmation), at the time of beginning one's participation in a community of faith, as a sign of renewed participation in the life of the church, or at the time of a significant life passage.

The order may be adapted for use by the whole assembly. Appropriate times for use include the Baptism of Our Lord, the Vigil of Easter, the Day of Pentecost, All Saints Day, and significant occasions in the life of a congregation, such as an anniversary.

## Presentation

*At the conclusion of the hymn of the day, those making affirmation may gather with the ministers at the font. They may be joined by others from the assembly. The presiding minister may note briefly the occasion for this affirmation.*

*A sponsor or another representative of the congregation presents those making affirmation.*

I present     name/s    , who *desire* to make public affirmation of *their* baptism.

*The presiding minister may continue with prayer.*

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for *these sisters and brothers*, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called *them* to yourself, enlightened *them* with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished *them* in the community of faith. Uphold your *servants* in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

## Profession of Faith

*The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may stand and join in the responses.*

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

*When individuals are making public affirmation of baptism, the service continues below.*

*When the assembly is making affirmation of baptism, the service continues on p. 237.*

## **Affirmation in the Presence of the Assembly**

*The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.*

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*Each person responds:* I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

*The minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God, do you promise to support *these sisters and brothers* and pray for *them* in *their* life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*Those making affirmation may kneel. The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

*The blessing may be repeated for each person. The minister may lay both hands on the head of the person and say:*

Stir up in name the gift of your Holy Spirit: 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, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

**OR**

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in name the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm *her/his* faith, guide *her/his* life, empower *her/him* in *her/his* serving, give *her/him* patience in suffering, and bring *her/him* to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

*Those making public affirmation stand and face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.*

Let us rejoice with *these sisters and brothers* in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.**

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

*A hymn, song, or psalm may be sung, and may be accompanied by a reminder of baptism.*

*The service then continues with the prayers of intercession.*

## Affirmation by the Assembly

*When the assembly is making affirmation of baptism, the presiding minister addresses them.*

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*The assembly makes affirmation:*

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

*The minister addresses the assembly.*

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

*The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.*

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: 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, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

*A hymn, song, or psalm may be sung, and may be accompanied by a reminder of baptism.*

*The service then continues with the prayers of intercession.*



# Corporate Confession and Forgiveness



Washed in water and marked with the cross, the baptized children of God are united with Christ and, through him, with other believers who together form a living community of faith. Although we are set free to live in love and faithfulness, we continue to turn away from God and from one another. Confessing our sin involves a continuing return to our baptism where our sinful self is drowned and dies; in the gift of forgiveness God raises us up again and again to new life in Jesus Christ.

Corporate Confession and Forgiveness may be used on penitential days, such as the final days of Lent, or as part of the regular schedule of the congregation. Occasions suggesting its use include the reconciliation of those estranged from one another; the confession of sharing in corporate wrongs; and a time of lament in the life of the congregation, the community, the nation, or the world. Selected portions may be used when a fuller order for confession and forgiveness within another service is desired.

## Gathering

*Psalm 25:1-17, Psalm 51:1-15, Psalm 103, another psalm, or an appropriate hymn or canticle may be sung as the assembly gathers.*

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

**OR**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

*The presiding minister leads one of the following or another prayer of preparation.*

God of all mercy and consolation,  
 come to the help of your people,  
 turning us from our sin  
 to live for you alone.  
 Give us the power of your Holy Spirit  
 that we may confess our sin,  
 receive your forgiveness,  
 and grow into the fullness  
 of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**OR**

Almighty God,  
 to whom all hearts are open,  
 all desires known,  
 and from whom no secrets are hid:  
 cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
 by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
 that we may perfectly love you  
 and worthily magnify your holy name,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## Word

*The service includes one or more scripture readings. Responses may include a psalm in response to a reading from the Old Testament, a sung acclamation preceding a gospel reading, or other appropriate hymns, songs, and psalms.*

*Preaching may follow, or those present may participate in mutual conversation and consolation, guided by the minister or another leader.*

## Confession

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly in these or similar words.*

While we still were sinners,  
 Christ died for us.  
 Through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
 God promises to heal us and forgive us.  
 Let us confess our sin  
 in the presence of God  
 and of one another.

**OR**

If we say we have no sin,  
 we deceive ourselves,  
 and the truth is not in us.  
 But if we confess our sins,  
 God who is faithful and just  
 will forgive our sins  
 and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

*The following or another confession is prayed. The assembly's response, "Holy God," may be sung (#159–161).*

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.

For self-centered living,  
and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

For longing to have what is not ours,  
and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

For misuse of human relationships,  
and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

For jealousies that divide families and nations,  
and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God,  
and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

For hurtful words that condemn,  
and for angry deeds that harm:  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ,  
and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:  
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**



## Forgiveness

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*People may come forward and kneel for the laying on of hands. The minister, laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each in turn.*

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

*Response:* Amen.

*Assembly song may accompany the laying on of hands.*

*After the laying on of hands, the assembly stands. The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say Peace be with you or similar words.*

*A hymn of praise and thanksgiving may be sung.*

**OR**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**OR**

In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you in all goodness and bring you to everlasting life.

*Response:* Amen.



## Prayers

*The prayer of the day and other prayers may be said.*

*The Lord's Prayer is prayed by all.*

**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,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

**OR**  
**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.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## Sending

### Blessing

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

Almighty and merciful God,  
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**OR**  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you  
with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and + give you peace.  
**Amen.**

### Dismissal

*The assisting minister may send the assembly into mission.*

Go in peace. Christ has made you free.  
**Thanks be to God.**



# Individual Confession and Forgiveness



Washed in water and marked with the cross, the baptized children of God are united with Christ and, through him, with other believers who together form a living community of faith. Although we are set free to live in love and faithfulness, we continue to turn away from God and from one another. Confessing our sin involves a continuing return to our baptism where our sinful self is drowned and dies; in the gift of forgiveness God raises us up again and again to new life in Jesus Christ.

Individual Confession and Forgiveness is a ministry of the church through which a person may confess sin and receive the assurance of God's forgiveness. This order may be used by itself at times when a congregation offers opportunity or people request the opportunity for confession. It may also be used in conjunction with pastoral care, such as to conclude a counseling session. There is a confidential nature to this order, in keeping with the discipline and practice of the Lutheran church.

## Confession

*The pastor begins:*

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

*Response:* Amen.

**OR**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

*Response:* Amen.

You have come to make confession before God.  
You are free to confess before me, a pastor in the church of Christ,  
sins of which you are aware and which trouble you.



*The penitent may use the following form or pray in her/his own words.*

Merciful God, I confess  
that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed,  
by what I have done and by what I have left undone.

*Here the penitent may confess sins that are known and that burden her/him.*

I repent of all my sins, known and unknown.  
I am truly sorry, and I pray for forgiveness.  
I firmly intend to amend my life,  
and to seek help in mending what is broken.  
I ask for strength to turn from sin  
and to serve you in newness of life.

*The pastor may engage the penitent in conversation, sharing admonition, counsel, and comfort from the scriptures. Psalm 51 or Psalm 103 may be spoken together.*

## **Forgiveness**

*Addressing the penitent, the pastor may lay both hands on the penitent's head.*

Cling to this promise: the word of forgiveness I speak to you comes from God.

**OR**

          Name          ,  
in obedience to the command  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
I forgive you all your sins  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*Response:* Amen.

          Name          ,  
by water and the Holy Spirit  
God gives you a new birth,  
and through the death and resurrection  
of Jesus Christ,  
God forgives you all your sins.  
Almighty God  
strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in eternal life.

*Response:* Amen.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus.

*Response:* Amen.

*The pastor and the penitent may share the greeting of peace.*

