

Garden of Eden Church
Baptism Service

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away;
behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Opening prayer

1. Hear the words of Jesus:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt. 28:18-20)

2. In the sacrament of baptism God gives us a new identity as his people.

In a world that has turned away from its Creator,
where anonymity and rootlessness threaten our existence,
God calls a people into covenant embrace.
God called Abraham and Sarah, gave them new names,
and promised to make of them a new nation
through which he would bless all the families of the world.
God cut a covenant into Israel's flesh, carving out a people for himself.
They would light the path home for all humanity.
In the fullness of time, God sent his only Son, Jesus, to be our Savior.
In his death on the cross our old self is dead and buried;
in his resurrection we rise to a new life and look forward to a new creation.
When we are baptized in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
the triune God seals our adoption as his children
and writes his name invisibly on our foreheads.

3. "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, a people belonging to God

Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of
God." (1 Pet. 2:9-10)

By baptism we have a new identity in Jesus Christ.

And what is God's gospel promise?

**(Unison) To forgive our sins and give us eternal life
by grace alone
because of Christ's one sacrifice
finished on the cross.**

4. How does baptism
remind you and assure you
that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross
is for you personally?

(Unison) In this way:

**Christ instituted this outward washing
and with it gave the promise that,
as surely as water washes away dirt from the body,
so certainly his blood and his Spirit
wash away my soul's impurity,
in other words, all my sins.**

5. What does it mean
to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?

(Unison) To be washed with Christ's blood means

**that God, by grace, has forgiven my sins
because of Christ's blood
poured out for me in his sacrifice on the cross.**

6. To be washed by Christ's Spirit means
that the Holy Spirit has renewed me and set me apart to be a member of Christ
so that more and more I become dead to sin
and increasingly live a holy and blameless life.

7. The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us now remember our baptism
and give thanks to God
as we celebrate this sacrament of grace today.

8. We thank you, O God,
for our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection.
In the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters,
and you created everything that is, seen and unseen.
In the time of Noah,
you destroyed evil in the water of the flood;
and by your saving ark, you gave a new beginning.
In the night of trouble
you led Israel through the sea,
out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.
In the water of the Jordan,
our Lord was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit.
In the baptism of Christ's death and resurrection,
you have set us free from sin and death
and opened up the way to eternal life.

May Christ, who sank deep into death
and was raised Lord of life,
keep us in the grip of his hand.
May your Spirit separate us from sin
and mark us with a faith
that can stand the light of day and endure the dark of night.

To you be all honor and glory, dominion and power,
now and forever,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Leader) Since you have responded by God's grace
to the call of the gospel to believe and be baptized,
we ask you, before God and his people,
to reject sin
and to profess your faith in Jesus Christ.
Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of evil
that rebel against God?

(Response) I renounce them!

(Leader) Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

(Response) I renounce them!

(Leader) Do you turn to Jesus Christ?

(Response) Yes! I trust in him as my Lord and Savior.

(Leader) Do you intend to be Christ's faithful disciple,
trusting his promises,
obeying his word,
honoring his church,
and showing his love,
as long as you live?

(Response) Yes! God helping me.

8. With all God's people throughout time and history,
and gathered in this place today,
we ask you to profess your faith in the triune God.
Do you believe in God the Father?

(Unison) I believe in God, the Father Almighty.

9. Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son?

(Unison) I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord . . .

10. Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

(Unison) I believe in the Holy Spirit . . .

(Move to water for baptism(s).)

(Leader) I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray.

Gracious God and heavenly Father,
we thank you that you make us new persons in Jesus Christ
through grace alone.

We pray for Gary .

Bless and strengthen him daily
with the gift of your Holy Spirit.

Unfold to him the riches of your love.

Deepen his faith.

Keep him from the power of evil.
Enable him to live a holy and blameless life
until your kingdom comes.

(Return to meeting area.)

Hymn #4. You shall go out with joy – 2x

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

11. Luke 22: 14-19

14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.

15 Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;

16 for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves;

18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

Partake of the body of Christ.

* Silent prayer

12. Reading: Luke 22: 20

20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

Partake of the blood of Christ.

* Silent prayer

13. Closing prayer

