

BAPTISM OF ATHENA ESPERANZA HADJITHEORIS-POOLE

*Parents and godparents move to the font,
and the congregation turns to face them, singing ...*

**Bless the Lord my soul
and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord my soul
who leads me into life.**

The priest addresses the whole congregation.

Faith is the gift of God to all people.

In baptism, Christ is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome Athena and uphold her in her new life in Christ?

We will.

THE DECISION

The priest addresses Athena through her parents and godparents.

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

The priest makes the sign of the cross on Athena's forehead.

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of the cross.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**Fight valiantly against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of glory
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE WATER

Praise God who made heaven and earth.

God's promise is kept forever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The priest continues:

We thank you, God of life, for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery in
Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,
to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Eternal God, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we baptize into Christ's fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may be cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The priest addresses the whole congregation:

Friends, I ask you to profess
together the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Creator,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in God the Creator.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in God the Son.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.**

THE BAPTISM

The priest says

Athena Esperanza,
I baptise you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May God who has received you by baptism into the Church,
pour upon you the riches of grace, that within the company of
Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by the
anointing of the Holy Spirit and come to the inheritance of the
saints in glory.

Amen.

THE GIVING OF THE CANDLE

The priest gives a candle to the parents, saying:

God receives Athena by baptism into the Church.
Receive this light.

This is to show that Athena has passed from darkness to light.

Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Creator.

THE WELCOME

The priest says

Athena, God receives you by baptism into the church.

**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are members together of the body of Christ.
We are children of the same Creator.**

We welcome you!

*The service continues with The Peace on page 10 of the main
order of service booklet.*