

# CONFIRMATION AND AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

(If the Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated in the same worship service, those affirming baptism join in the opening paragraphs of that service, and continue with the appropriate Affirmation forms beginning on page 171.)

(Standing)

In grace God called and chose the people of Israel and established with them a covenant: I will be your God and you will be my people. In that relationship they were to be freed from sin and become a blessing to all. Then God came to us in Jesus Christ and fulfilled that covenant for all people. Through Christ's life, death, and resurrection, God made for us a new covenant of grace.

**We come before you with joy, O God, to claim the promises of your covenant.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted baptism as the visible means of entry into the new covenant. Baptism is a gift of God. In this sacrament, through grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united with Christ, are cleansed by his saving work, enter into the fellowship of the church, and are called to a life of faith and willing obedience.

**Claimed by God in baptism, we pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit our lives may faithfully affirm the blessings of Christ's new covenant.**

(The minister addresses the candidates.)

As you present *yourselves* before God and this congregation, we call upon you to profess your faith.

Do you believe in God as your Creator and loving heavenly Father, in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit as your Comforter and Sustainer, according to the Holy Scriptures?

**I do.**

(Candidates may profess their faith by means of the Apostles' Creed, the baptismal profession of the early church. The congregation may be invited to join in the Creed as an affirmation of their own baptism.)

Lord, make us one with all your children as we profess our faith, saying:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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

\*Ancient text reads "catholic," which means "universal."

(The minister addresses the candidates.)

Do you in this faith turn away from sin, evil, and selfishness in your thoughts, words, and actions; and do you intend to participate actively in Christ's church, serving God all the days of your life?

**I do.**

(The minister addresses the congregation.)

Do you affirm *these children* of God as *members* of this congregation, and accept your obligation to love and nurture *them* in Christ?

**We do.**

## **The Rite of Confirmation**

(The minister addresses the candidates for confirmation.)

In the presence of God and this congregation, do you confirm the covenant into which you were baptized, relying on the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide you into ever increasing maturity in your relationship with Christ and the church?

**I do.**

(Sitting)

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you have received *these person(s)* into your covenant through baptism. You have provided for *their* growth, enlightened *their* mind(s) with your truth, and enabled *them* to offer *themselves* to you. We ask that you accept the vows *they* have made today. Defend and strengthen *them* with your Holy Spirit, empower *them* for your service, and sustain *them* all the days of *their* lives.

**Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

ANGEL'S STORY

O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

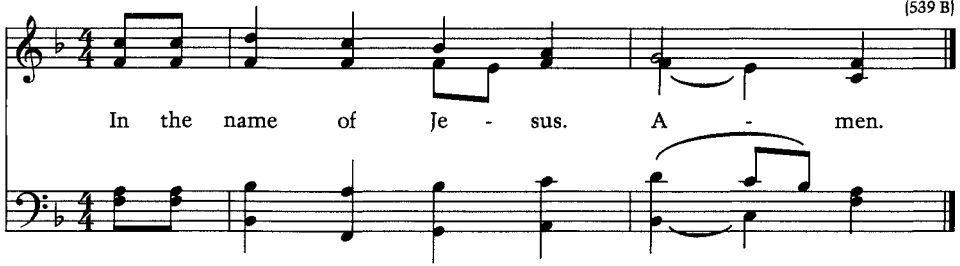
be now and ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my Friend;

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,

nor wan - der from the path - way, if you will be my Guide.

(The candidates for confirmation present themselves. The minister, laying hands upon the head of each, names the candidate, and pronounces a text of Scripture.)

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you;  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace;



(Confirmands standing)

By affirming your baptismal covenant in public worship today, you have taken another step in your journey with God. You have entered into a new relationship with God and this congregation. We charge you in God's name always to remain faithful to Christ and the church, and to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

## Reaffirmation of Faith

(The congregation sitting, the candidates present themselves, and the minister gives them the following greeting and charge.)

\_\_\_\_\_, you have affirmed your faith and baptismal covenant before God and this congregation, and, by the grace and strength of Christ, have declared your desire and promise to renew your Christian discipleship. We welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

May the Lord be with you. Build *yourselves* up on your most holy faith, led by the Holy Spirit. Keep *yourselves* by grace in the love of God, as you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ in his mercy to give you eternal life.

## Transfer of Membership

(The congregation sitting, the candidates present themselves, and the minister gives them the following greeting and charge.)

\_\_\_\_\_, through baptism, profession of faith, and Christian service, you have already entered into the life of the Church Universal, and today we rejoice to welcome and receive you into the fellowship of this congregation. Continue faithfully in the good way you have chosen in Christ, and may the Holy Spirit bless you in your life among us. May we all, through grace, be enabled to support and encourage one another in Jesus Christ our Lord.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

(Standing. During the singing of the following hymn, the minister and others, according to local practice, give the right hand of fellowship to all who have been baptized or who have publicly affirmed their baptism on this day.)

HUS (22 F)

Here in the name of Christ our Lord, the  
We wel - come you a - mong us here, with  
The God of peace you sanc - ti - fy and

church's Head by all a - dored, with Chris - tian love and  
joy that God has brought you near. With heart and hand we  
bless you rich - ly from on high, that spir - it, soul, and

pur - pose true, this church in faith em - brac - es you.  
pledge our love, and pray Christ's bless - ing from a - bove.  
bod - y may re - flect God's pres - ence ev - 'ry day.

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