

Responsive Reading Mt 28:18-19; Ro 6:3-4

Jesus came and spake unto them, saying,
All power is given unto me in heaven and in
earth.

**Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**

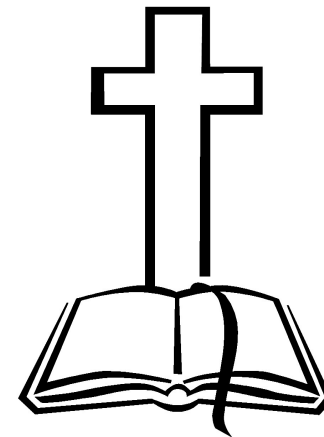
Teaching them to observe all things
whatsoever I have commanded you: and,
lo, I am with you always, even unto the end
of the world. Amen.

**Know ye not, that so many of us as were
baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized
into his death?**

Therefore we are buried with him by
baptism into death: that like as Christ was
raised up from the dead by the glory of the
Father, even so we also should walk in
newness of life.

**For if we have been planted together in the
likeness of his death, we shall be also in
the likeness of his resurrection:**

Worship Service



Baptism

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Baptism

Poem

"Jesus, Our Lord and King"

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Closing Prayer

Jesus, Our Lord and King

Anonymous

Jesus, our Lord and King,
To You our praises rise;
To You our bodies we present,
A Living Sacrifice.

Now Justified by grace
And made alive to God,
Formed for Yourself to show Your praise,
We sound Your love abroad.

As dead indeed to sin,
We rise to walk anew,
Henceforth, as not our own, but Yours,
We follow only You.

Baptized into Your death,
With You again we rise,
To newness of a life of faith,
To new and endless joys.

"Baptism"

[BEFORE THE SERVICE - If possible, invite the candidates for baptism to the front of the congregation. Have someone be an attendant to help the leader during the service. Provide a container of warm water. Have bath towels for each candidate available. Also, before the service, read the Text and the five paragraphs that follow to each candidate and confirm that they agree to what the leader will be reading.]

Opening Prayer: Dear Father God, we have gathered here to witness and participate in baptism ordained by You as it is recorded in Holy Scripture. In this time of celebration, please inspire each of us to renew our commitment to live for Jesus Christ and to renounce sin in our lives. Enliven this ceremony with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Make the meaning and the testimony of baptism fresh to each of us. Fill each of us anew with your power that we may serve you with greater confidence and strength. For Your glory! Amen.

Devotion:

Text: *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

Christianity is a dynamic, ongoing, conversational, loving relationship with God the Father in Christ Jesus, through the Holy Spirit who abides in our hearts. God Almighty gave birth to this relationship and we are always completely dependent on His everlasting love to sustain that relationship. Before we experience this birth into the Family of God, we cannot have a meaningful relationship with Him or know the fullness of His blessing.

Christ ordained baptism. We submit to baptism as a testimony to God's work in our hearts. By following Christ's will in baptism we signify our commitment to turn from the life of the past, to receive by faith new life in Christ, and to live a life of obedience to Him.

"Baptism" continued

As we bow our heads to receive the water of baptism, we are testifying to the redemptive work of Christ on the cross and identifying with Him in His death for us. In baptism we symbolize our death in Christ to the self-centered, sinful way of living.

As we raise our heads from under the waters of baptism, we testify to our heartfelt embrace of His new life within us. As Christ was raised from the dead and now lives in the presence of the Father, even so we now commit to walking "in newness of life" in our relationship with the Father.

Baptism:

[Now address the candidate(s) directly.] **Do you accept this baptism as we have described it? Do you believe that Jesus Christ, as God's only begotten Son, paid the full penalty for your sins on the cross of Calvary? Do you, by being baptized before this congregation, confess Jesus Christ as your Savior and hereby signify your determination to follow Him as your Lord?**

[When each candidate has given affirmation to the above three questions, proceed. Now the attendant places the bath towels gently and snugly around the necks of each candidate to avoid dampening their clothes.]

***Upon this public confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and of your determination to leave the old life of sin and follow Him, I baptize you [full name] in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. [Here apply the water to the head as appropriate, repeating this pronouncement for each candidate.]
Amen!***

Closing Prayer: Father God, thank You for [first name(s)] who [has/have] participated in baptism today. Please give [him/her/them] and all of us the strength to deny ourselves and follow You more closely every day! Again, we thank you and give you praise. In the name of Jesus, Amen.