

**Welcome to
St Mary Magdalene, Geddington
and
St Mary the Virgin, Weekley**



**Service of
Morning Prayer
and Baptism**

Pastoral Introduction

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the candidates but also parents, godparents and sponsors, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith. The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian way. There is the sign of the cross, the badge of faith in the Christian journey, which reminds us of Christ's death for us. Our 'drowning' in the water of baptism, where we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life, unites us to Christ's dying and rising, a picture that can be brought home vividly by the way the baptism is administered. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit. This reminds us of Jesus' baptism. And as a sign of that new life, there may be a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptized walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

As you pray for the candidate, picture those who are being baptized with yourself and the whole Church throughout the ages, journeying into the fullness of God's love.

Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.' (John 10.10)

The Greeting

Please Stand

Opening Hymn

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Please Sit

The works of the Lord are great:
his mercy endures for ever.

Prayer for Renewal

Be with us, Spirit of God;
Nothing can separate us from your love.

Breathe on us, breath of God;
Fill us with your saving power.

Speak in us, wisdom of God;
Bring strength, healing, and peace.

Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Let us praise and bless God for ever.

Confession

We acknowledge our sin and failure to God

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Day

Please Sit

Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your faithful people
new life in the waters of baptism.

Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever. **Amen**

First Reading

at the end of the reading the following response is said:

For the word of God in Scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,
thanks be to God.

Hymn

Please Stand

The Gospel Reading

Remain Standing

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Glory to you, O Lord.

at the end of the reading the following response is said:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Please Sit

The Baptism

The minister invites Parents and Godparents to come up

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us
that to enter the kingdom of heaven
we must be born again of water and the Spirit,
and has given us baptism
as the sign and seal of this new birth.

Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean.

Here we are clothed with Christ,
dying to sin that we may live his risen life.

As children of God, we have a new dignity
and God calls us to fullness of life.

Faith is the gift of God to God's people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number
those whom he is calling.

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them'.

We thank God for *N* who has come to be baptized today.

Christ loves *N* and welcomes them into his Church.

So I ask you all:

Will you support *N* as they begin their journey of faith?

We will

Will you help *N* to live and grow within God's family?

We will

The minister addresses the parents and godparents

God knows each of us by name and we are his. Parents and godparents, you speak for *N* today. Will you pray for *N*, and help them to follow Christ?

We will

The Decision *The Parents, Godparents declare their own Christian faith*

We all wander far from God and lose our way:
Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.
In baptism we respond to his call.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?

I do

Do you reject evil?

I do

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I do

Do you trust in him as Lord?

I do

Signing With the Cross

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed of Christ.

You are his for ever.

**Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen**

Prayer Over the Water

We praise you, loving Father, for the gift of your Son Jesus. He was baptized in the River Jordan, where your Spirit came upon him and revealed him as the Son you love.

He sent his followers to baptize all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water, that this child who is baptized in it may be cleansed in the water of life, and, filled with your Spirit may know that they are loved as your child, safe in Christ for ever. **Amen.**

We say Together What we Believe

Let us affirm, together with those who are being baptized, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

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

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

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.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

N, I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

N, you have been clothed with Christ.
As many as are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

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

The Baptismal party returns to their seats

The Commission

N, it has been good to welcome you to *St Mary Magdalene/St Mary the Virgin* for your baptism. Baptism joins us to Christ and to his whole Church, in earth and in heaven. At *St Mary Magdalene/St Mary the Virgin*, we shall do all that we can to ensure that this is a welcoming place for you.

N, we pray that you will come closer to God as you grow in faith, as you read your Bible, as you pray and as you come to church. We will also be praying for you as you prepare for your confirmation.

Parents and godparents, the example that you give by prayer and the life that you lead will profoundly affect N in the whole of *his/her* future life. Remember to ask for God's help, and pray for N often, as we pray for you.

Let us now pray for grace in guiding N in the way of faith.

Faithful and loving God, bless *N* parents.
Grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith.
Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love,
and protect their home from all evil.
Fill them with the light of your presence
and establish them in the joy of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

N, today God has touched you with his love
and given you a place among his people.
God promises to be with you in joy and in sorrow,
to be your guide in life, and to bring you safely to heaven.
In baptism God invites you on a life-long journey.
Together with all God's people you are invited to explore the
way of Jesus and grow in friendship with God,
in love for his people, and in serving others.
With us you will be invited to listen to the word of God
and to receive the gifts of God. **Amen**

The Welcome and Peace

Please Stand

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
N, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

**We welcome you into the family of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn (during which a collection is taken)

Please Stand

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel

We conclude our prayers with the Lord's Prayer

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Notices

Final Hymn

Please Stand

The Blessing

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,
give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Giving of a Lighted Candle

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.

N, you have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

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

Sending Out

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.



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