



**The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
according to the use of
The Orthodox Apostolic Church**

**Ceremony of Salisbury
for celebration in parishes of the Western Rite**

Ceremony for the Baptism of
A young Child represented
by Sponsors (Godparents)

**HOLY COMFORTER ORTHODOX CHURCH
HOUSTON, TEXAS**

This book was published by the

Holy Comforter Orthodox Church
in Houston, Texas

in the hope that all people may enjoy the
Presence of God
in their lives.

Please, do not sin.

First Edition, December 20, 1993

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

The Sponsors, or Godparents, of the Child to be Baptized shall present the Child before the Celebrant.

Celebrant: Has this Child been already baptized?

Sponsors: No.

Celebrant: Dearly beloved, forasmuch as our Saviour Christ says "None can enter into the kingdom of God, except (s)he be regenerate and born anew of water and of the Holy Spirit" I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteous mercy he will grant to This Child that which by nature (s)he cannot have; that (s)he may be baptized with Water and the Holy Spirit, and received into Christ's holy Church, and be made a living member of the same.

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty and immortal God, the aid of all who need, the helper of all who flee to thee for succor, the life of those who believe, and the resurrection of the dead; We call upon thee for this Child that (s)he, coming into thy holy Baptism, may receive remission of sin, by spritual regeneration. Receive (him/her), O Lord, as thou hast promised by thy well-beloved Son, saying, Ask, and ye shall have; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. So give now unto us who ask; let us who seek, find; open the gate unto us who knock; that this Child may enjoy the

everlasting benediction of thy heavenly washing, and may come to the eternal kingdom which thou has promised by Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Hear the words of the Gospel, written by Saint Matthew, in the twenty-eighth Chapter, at the eighteenth Verse.

Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: 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.

Celebrant: And now, being persuaded of the good will of our heavenly Father toward this Child, declared by his Son Jesus Christ; let us faithfully and devoutly give thanks unto him.

Celebrant: Almighty and everlasting God, heavenly Father, we give thee humble thanks, that thou hast vouchsafed to call us to the knowledge of thy grace, and faith in thee: Increase this knowledge, and confirm this faith in us evermore. Give thy Holy Spirit to this Child that (s)he may be born again and be made an heir of everlasting salvation, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, Amen.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever, Amen.**

Celebrant: We yield thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, that it hath pleased thee to regenerate this Child with thy Holy Spirit, to receive (him/her) for thine own Child, and to incorporate (him/her) into thy holy Church. And humbly we beseech thee to grant, that (s)he, being dead unto sin, may live unto righteousness, and being buried with Christ in his death, may also be partaker of his resurrection; so that finally, with the remnant of thy holy Church, (s)he may be an inheritor of thine everlasting kingdom, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: The Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named; Grant you to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that, Christ dwelling in your hearts by faith, ye may be filled with all the fulness of God. Amen.

Celebrant: So ends the ceremony. All go in peace.

The Sponsors shall name the Child. The Celebrant shall baptize the Child with or in the water, saying:

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

Celebrant: We receive this Child into the congregation of Christ's flock; and do (+) sign (him/her) with the sign of the Cross, in token that hereafter (s)he shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, and rightfully to fight under his banner, against sin, the world, and the devil; and to continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto life's end. Amen.

Seeing now, dearly beloved brethren, that this Child is regenerate, and grafted into the body of Christ's Church, let us give thanks unto Almighty God for these benefits; and with one accord make our prayers unto him, that this Child may lead the rest of his/her life according to this beginning.

Celebrant: And now, let us join together in the Lord's Prayer.

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed by thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

The Celebrant shall address the Sponsors.

Celebrant: Dearly beloved, you have brought this Child here to be baptized; you have prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would vouchsafe to receive (him/her), to release (him/her) from sin, to sanctify (him/her) with the Holy Spirit, to give (him/her) the kingdom of heaven and everlasting life.

Do you, therefore, in the name of this Child, renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the sinful desires of the flesh, so that thou will not follow, nor be led by them?

Sponsors: I renounce them all; and, by God's help, will endeavor not to follow, nor be led by them.

Celebrant: Do you believe all the articles of the Christian Faith, as contained in the Apostles' Creed?

Sponsors: I do.

Celebrant: Will you be baptized in this Faith?

Sponsors: That is my desire.

Celebrant: Will you then obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of your life?

Sponsor: I will, by God's help.

Celebrant: Having now, in the name of this Child, made these promises, will you also on your part take heed that this Child learn the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, and all other things which a Christian ought to know and believe to his/her soul's health?

Sponsor: I will, by God's help.

Celebrant: Will you take heed that this Child, so soon as sufficiently instructed, be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed by him?

Sponsor: I will, God being my helper.

Celebrant: O Merciful God, grant that like as Christ died and rose again, so this Child may die to sin and rise to newness of life. Amen.

Grant that all sinful affections may die in (him/her), and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in (him/her). Amen.

Grant that (s)he may have power and strength to have victory, and to triumph, against the devil, the world, and the flesh. Amen.

Grant that whosoever is here dedicated to thee by our office and ministry, may also be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly rewarded, through thy mercy, O blessed Lord God, who dost live, and govern all things, world without end, Amen.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

Sponsors: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

Sponsors: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Sponsors: It is meet and right so to do.

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, for that thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins, did shed out of his most precious side both water and blood; and gave commandment to his disciples, that they should go teach all nations, and baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Regard, we beseech thee, the supplications of thy congregation; sanctify this water to the mystical washing away of sin; and grant that this Child, now to be baptized therein, may receive the fulness of thy grace, and ever remain in the number of thy faithful children; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and evermore. Amen.

The Celebrant takes the Child into his arms and shall say to the Sponsors:

Celebrant: Name this Child.