



Anthony Michael Catalano
April 21, 2024

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

Dearly Beloved, baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, through which grace we become partakers of His righteousness and heirs of Life Eternal.

Those receiving this Sacrament are thereby marked as Christian disciples and initiated into the Fellowship of Christ's Holy Church.

Our Lord has expressly given to little children a place among the people of God, which Holy privilege must not be denied them.

Remember the words of our Lord Jesus, how He said,

"Let the children come to Me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of GOD".

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Parents and sponsors:

On behalf of the whole church I ask you:

Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? **WE DO**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? **WE DO**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in His grace, and promise to serve Him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations and races? **WE DO**

Do you therefore accept as your bounden duty and privilege to live before Anthony Michael a life that becomes the Gospel; to exercise all godly care, that he be brought up in the Christian Faith, and that he be taught the Holy Scriptures and that he learn to give reverent attention upon the private and public worship of God? **WE DO**

Will you nurture Anthony Michael in Christ's Holy Church, that by your teaching and example he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself, to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life? **WE WILL**

Congregation:

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ? **WE DO**

As members of Christ's universal church, will you be loyal to Christ through The United Methodist Church, and do all in your power to strengthen its ministries? **WE WILL**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Anthony Michael now before you in your care?

With God's help, we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Anthony Michael with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his service to others.

We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

All:

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

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

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray:

Eternal GOD: When nothing existed but chaos,
You swept across the dark waters and brought forth light.

In the days of Noah, You saved those on the ark through water.

After the flood, You set in the clouds a rainbow.

When You saw Your people as slaves in Egypt, You led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children You brought through the Jordan to the land which You promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time, You sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb.

He was baptized by John and anointed by Your Spirit.

He called His disciples to share in the baptism of His death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare His works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water, and Anthony Michael, who receives it, to wash away his sins and clothe him in righteousness throughout his life, that, dying and being raised with Christ, he may share in Christ's final victory.

All praise to You, Eternal Father, through Your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

BAPTISM AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

Anthony Michael, I baptize you in the Name of the Father+ and of the Son+ and of the Holy Spirit+ **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

O God our Heavenly Father, grant that Anthony Michael, as he grows in years, may also grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that by the restraining and renewing influence of the Holy Spirit, he may ever be a true child of Yours, serving You faithfully all his days.

So, guide and uphold his parents, Beth and Tony, that, by loving care, wise counsel, and holy example, they may lead him into that life of faith whose strength is righteousness and whose fruit is everlasting joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF WELCOME (*UMH* 611) "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

COMMENDATION AND BLESSING

Members of the household of God, I commend Anthony Michael to your love and care.

Do all in your power to increase his faith, confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace. **Amen.**