ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP of GOD

November 25, 2018
All the elements of our worship services are designed to strengthen our faith in our promise-keeping God. This is particularly true of the sacraments. One way that we exercise faith in our Lord and His promises is by bringing our children for baptism.

Why do we baptize our children?

God’s covenant promise. We baptize our children because God promises to be their God throughout the Scriptures. The Apostle Peter says at Pentecost that the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit are for you and your children” (Acts 2:39).

God’s prescribed pattern. God established a pattern of giving the sign of entrance into the covenant to children of believers in the Old Testament (Genesis 17:7) and this pattern is not set aside in the New Testament. Thus, the silence of the New Testament is more an argument for the practice than against it.

God’s new sign. In the New Testament, baptism replaces circumcision as the sign of the covenant (Colossians 2:11). Both signs remind us that God’s promise continues to future generations and necessitates the shedding of blood for salvation.

A vivid picture. Baptism points to what Christ’s shed blood accomplishes: the washing away of sin’s guilt and the Spirit being poured out upon us. We celebrate this reality when we baptize an adult who professes faith. We anticipate this reality when we baptize a child of believing parents.
CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN OF PRAISE: “For All the Love”  
ENGELBERG

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We have lived by the light of our own understanding and not by the light of Christ.
We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of the resurrection.
We have lived for this world, and have doubted our home in heaven.
We have heard the good news of Jesus, but have failed to share it with others.
We have lived as if we were ashamed to belong to Your Son.

In Your mercy, O Lord, forgive us and take away our guilt.
Restore us for the sake of Your Son and bring us to the joy of heaven, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON. .............................. I John 4:9-10

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “He Never Failed Me Yet” ....................... arr. Robert Ray

I will sing of God’s mercy, everyday, every hour He gives me power.
I will sing and give thanks to Thee for all the dangers, toils and snares
That He has brought me out.
He is my God and I’ll serve Him, no matter what the test.
Trust and never doubt, Jesus will surely bring you out,
He never failed me yet.
I know God is able to deliver in time of storm. I know that He’ll keep you safe
From all earthly harm. One day when my weary soul is at rest
I’m going home to be forever bless’d.
Didn’t my God deliver Moses from King Pharaoh?
And didn’t He cool the fiery furnace for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego?
When I think of what my God can do,
He delivered Daniel, I know He will deliver you.

The Chancel Choir
Mandy Cox, soloist
Calvin Ellis, director

†PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING. ................................. David Bowen

†GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15)

Hear the Word of the Lord with Submission

†PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (please stand)

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

†HYMN OF PREPARATION:

“My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness” .............. Keith Getty, Stuart Townend
CALL TO WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE: "For All the Love"

HYMN OF PRAISE: "For All the Love"

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We baptize our children to anticipate this reality when we baptize a child of believing parents. Why do we baptize our children? In the New Testament, baptism replaces circumcision as the sign of the covenant (Colossians 2:11). Both signs remind us that God’s promise has come to pass. We baptize our children to declare God’s promise-keeping character and to anticipate the fulfillment of God’s promise.

We bring you, Lord, our song of grateful praise: Alleluia!

CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN


The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the Word of our God will stand forever. (Isaiah 40:8)

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

HYMN OF COMMITMENT:

No. 576 “Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve”. CHRISTMAS

BENEDICTION (please raise hands)

CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: “Now Thank We All Our God” Egil Hovland

Indicates congregation standing CCLI License #252778
I. Protects the Body (Acts 22:22-29; 23:9,10)
   A. Cultural Obsession

   B. Biblical Stewardship

II. Provides Your Words (Acts 22:30-23:1-8)
   A. Men

   B. Mistakes

   C. Message

III. Empowers Your Purpose (Acts 23:11)
   A. Purpose Confusion

   B. Divine Necessity