

Preface

This liturgy is designed for laypersons who are called upon to assist someone in committing their life to Jesus, whether in day-to-day life or in an emergency situation. It acknowledges that while priests have their specific training and roles, it is often laypersons who encounter individuals seeking to convert. In such cases, the Christian layperson can use this liturgy to guide the individual, encouraging them to join a church with apostolic grounding. This liturgy supports the concept of the priesthood of all believers within Anglicanism and the wider apostolic church, providing a structured approach for helping others commit their lives to Jesus, possibly after a period of evangelism.

Opening Prayer

"Heavenly Father, we gather in Your name, trusting in Your grace and mercy. We ask for Your presence here, through the intercession of Mary, Our Lady of Walsingham, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Guide us as we help [Name] come to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, as their Lord and Savior. Grant us the wisdom to speak Your truth, the compassion to show Your love, and the faith to believe in Your promises. Strengthen our hearts and fill us with Your peace, so that we may serve You faithfully in this holy task. We ask this in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Guidance Notes for the Liturgy Leader

By following these guidance notes, the liturgy leader can ensure a respectful, compassionate, and effective service, helping the person to commit their life to Jesus with confidence and peace.

Preparation: Spend time in prayer before beginning the liturgy, asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom.

Review the liturgy thoroughly to ensure familiarity with each part and the scripture readings.

Prepare any materials needed, such as a Bible, a small container of water for emergency baptism (ideally Holy water), and any other items specific to the liturgy.

Invocation: Invoke the presence of the Holy Spirit and seek the intercession of Mary, Our Lady of Walsingham, to guide the session and give faith to the person.

Setting the Atmosphere: Ensure a quiet and respectful environment, conducive to prayer and reflection.

Speak gently and clearly, providing comfort and assurance to the person you are assisting.

Engagement: Engage the person with compassion and understanding. Listen to their concerns and questions patiently. Affirm their responses and encourage them throughout the process, offering words of comfort and hope.

Scripture Reading: Read the scriptures slowly and clearly, allowing time for the words to resonate. Encourage the person to reflect on the meanings of the passages and how they relate to their journey of faith.

Confession and Profession of Faith: Guide the person through the confession and profession of faith with sensitivity. Offer support and encouragement, reminding them of God's love and mercy.

Acknowledgment and assurance: Emphasize the acknowledgment of faith as a gift from God. Assure the person of their forgiveness and salvation through the promises of scripture.

Emergency Baptism: If the situation requires emergency baptism, follow the liturgy closely and perform the baptism reverently. Use water if available, and ensure the person understands the significance of the sacrament.

Final Commendation and Prayer:

Conclude the liturgy with the final commendation and the Lord's Prayer. Allow for open prayer if appropriate, offering a moment for personal petitions and thanksgiving.

Post-Liturgy Actions: If an emergency baptism was performed, inform pastoral authorities as soon as possible.

Encourage the person to seek further guidance and support from the Apostolic Church for continued growth in their faith.

Confession and Profession of Faith

Christian Person/Lay Person:

"In the name of the Father..."

Christian leading the liturgy reads John 3:16.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Lay Person:

"Therefore, I ask: Do you turn away from sin? Reject evil? Turn to Christ as Saviour? Trust in him as Lord?"

OR

"[Name], do you repent of your sins and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who died for your sins and was raised from the dead?"

Convert:

"I do. Lord Jesus Christ, remember me when you come into your kingdom." (Luke 23:42)

OR

"I renounce sin, reject evil and accept Jesus as my Lord and Saviour...come Lord Jesus."

Acknowledgment of Faith as a Gift from God

Lay Person:

"Remember, as Jesus said to Peter, 'Blessed are you...for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.' (Matthew 16:17).

[Name], your faith is a gift from God the father."

Assurance of Forgiveness and Salvation

In emergency situation, the Lay Person says:

"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)

Lay Person reads Romans 10 verses 9-13

Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction...the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Convert may respond:

"Lord Jesus I call on you to save me. Amen."

Emergency Baptism (if not already baptized and a true emergency exists)

Lay Person:

"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."

Lay Person (using water if available):

"[Name], I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Final Commendation**Lay Person:**

"Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful servant pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (Collect for the 21st Sunday after Trinity)

Open prayer may follow where appropriate.

Lord's prayer is to be used to conclude the liturgy.

Notes for Lay Person emergency baptism:

1. In an emergency, a lay person may perform baptism and should inform pastoral authorities afterward.
2. Parents should request emergency baptism for infants, understanding that ultimate salvation and Christian funeral rites are not dependent on baptism.
3. When uncertain of the person's name, baptism can be administered without it if proper documentation can be made afterward.

Notes for non-emergency use:

4. The baptism is to be omitted where no emergency exists, and the convert is to be encouraged to seek out the Church for further guidance and baptism.
5. In either case, all priestly actions such as anointing or signing of the cross etc., are to be refrained except by those validly ordained