

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

CELEBRATING NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Pastor: Water is what God uses to wash and nourish the earth. It is also what we use to wash and nourish ourselves. God has promised to use water, together with God's Word, to cleanse us spiritually and to initiate us into the Christian family.

P: We are now to celebrate this great washing of Baptism for Alexander James Irwin.

P: The Gospel of Matthew tells us that, "Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

PROFESSING OUR FAITH

P: Having now heard this command of Jesus, I ask you to affirm the Christian faith, for yourselves and for this child, by joining the congregation in confessing the words of the Apostles Creed:

Congregation: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilot, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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. Amen.

COMMITMENT AND PROMISE

P: (*Speaking now to you parents and sponsors*) In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. Will you, therefore, faithfully bring him to services of God's house, and teach him the Lord's prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As he grows in years, will you place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for his instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ?

P: If so answer: We will, with God's help.

Parents & Sponsors: We will, with God's help.

BAPTIZING AND ANOINTING

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

P: God, the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Alexander: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence. Amen.

P: Alexander, child of God, you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

A GIFT OF LIGHT AND PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

P: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P: Let us pray, Heavenly Father, we thank you for the life of this child and we pray that he may grow each day into greater appreciation of your presence in the world and of your presence in his life. We ask you to help us as his Christian family to demonstrate before him the kind of love and hope in which we've been called to live. Show to Alexander, both now and forever, your graciousness as the source of his life. For we ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.

WELCOMING THE CHILD INTO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

P: Faithful People of God, behold Alexander James Irwin, baptized by water and the Holy Spirit. Welcome him, as a child of God and a brother in Christ.

(Pastor presents child to congregation)