



## Baptized and Empowered

### Prayers from the RITE OF BAPTISM

Celebrant or Discussion Leader:  
(formula D)

**Praise to you, almighty God and  
Father,  
for you have created water to cleanse  
and to give life.**

All: **Blessed be God.**

Celebrant:

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father's only Son,  
for you offered yourself on the cross,  
that in the blood and water flowing  
from your side  
and through your death and  
resurrection  
the Church might be born.**

All: **Blessed be God.**

#### Questions for Discussion:

What is your role in the Church?

What other roles do you / have you  
served in?

What do you like about those roles?

Celebrant:

**Praise to you, God the Holy Spirit,  
for you anointed Christ at his baptism  
in the waters of the Jordan,  
that we might all be baptized in you.**

All: **Blessed be God.**

#### Question for Discussion:

John's baptism was one of repentance.  
Since Jesus did not sin, why did he want  
to be baptized?

Celebrant:

**You have called your children  
to this cleansing water,  
that they may share in the faith of  
your Church and have eternal life.  
By the mystery of this  
consecrated water  
lead them to a new  
and spiritual birth.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

All: **Amen.**

Celebrant (formula E):

**Father, God of mercy,  
through these waters of baptism  
you have filled us with new life  
as your very own children.**

All: **Blessed be God.**

#### Questions for Discussion:

What does it mean to you to be a "child"  
of God?

Who are you to God? (Name other words  
besides "child".)

Celebrant:

**From all who are baptized in water  
and the Holy Spirit,  
you have formed one people, united  
in your Son, Jesus Christ.**

All: **Blessed be God.**

Celebrant:

**You have set us free  
and filled our hearts  
with the Spirit of your love,  
that we may live in your peace.**

All: **Blessed be God.**

#### Questions for Discussion:

In what ways do you see the love of God  
exhibited in each other?

Celebrant:

**You call those who have been baptized to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ to people everywhere.**

**Question for Discussion:**

How do you fulfill your baptismal calling in the work you do for the parish?

**Prayer from the ANOINTING AFTER BAPTISM**

Celebrant:

**The God of power and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin and brought you to new life through water and the Holy Spirit. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation, so that, united with his people, you may remain forever a member of Christ who is Priest, Prophet, and King.**

All: **Amen.**

**Questions for Discussion:**

In what ways are you...  
a priest?  
a prophet?  
a king?

Now each person tell each of the others in your group how *they* are these.

**Prayers from the CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION**

Celebrant:

**Born again in Christ by baptism, you have become members of Christ and of his priestly people. Now you are to share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit sent by the Lord upon his apostles at Pentecost and given by them and their successors to the baptized.**

**The promised strength of the Holy Spirit, which you are to receive, will make you more like Christ and help you to be witnesses to his suffering, death, and resurrection. It will strengthen you to be active members of the Church and to build up the Body of Christ in faith and love.**

**Questions for Discussion:**

Who is the Holy Spirit to you?

How does the Holy Spirit help you in the work you do?

Share a story of a time when the Holy Spirit helped you in your work.

Celebrant:

**All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

**Questions for Discussion:**

Which of these do you wish you could have more abundantly? Why?

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Right judgment
- Courage
- Knowledge
- Reverence
- Wonder and awe

**Read Ezekiel 47:1-9,12****Reflect:**

In scripture, flowing water is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. This reading tells us that wherever the Holy Spirit flows, the people thrive and their faith multiplies and spreads. We need the flow of God's Spirit in our lives to overcome stubborn sinful tendencies and to become distributors of faith.

**Questions for Private Reflection and then Discussion:**

1. In an honest, frank assessment of your partnership parish, where is the Holy Spirit's activity lacking?

Where is the Holy Spirit's activity strongest?

2. If you could have a dream come true for your parish, what would it be?

3. In your role at the parish, name one thing you will do to as a step toward making that dream come true or in an effort to help the Holy Spirit to flow more freely in the parish.

4. Name one thing the staff could do over the next year to guide the parish toward the same goal.