CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD WITH ST. PETER, LEE

**Service of Holy Baptism for Matthew Hesman**

*The congregation are invited to gather around the baptism pool*

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us

that to enter the kingdom of heaven

we must be born again of water and the Spirit,

and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth.

Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean.

Here we are clothed with Christ,

dying to sin that we may live his risen life.

As children of God, we have a new dignity

and God calls us to fullness of life.

*The candidate is addressed:*

Matthew, do you wish to be baptized?

***Matthew* I do.**

*The candidate may share their story about why they’ve chosen to be baptized*

We thank God for Matthew who has come to be baptized today.

Christ loves him and welcomes him into his Church.

Will you support Matthew on his journey of faith?

***All* We will.**

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.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?

I do

Do you reject evil?

I do

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I do

Do you trust in him as Lord?

I do

*Matthew is signed with the cross*

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his for ever.

***All* Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil,**

**and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,

and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

***All* Amen.**

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

**All** who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All** It is right to give thanks and praise.

*A prayer is said over the water:*

We praise you, loving Father, for the gift of your Son Jesus.

He was baptized in the River Jordan, where your Spirit came upon him

and revealed him as the Son you love. He sent his followers to baptize all who turn to him. Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water, that those who are baptized in it may be cleansed in the water of life, and, filled with your Spirit, may know that they are loved as your children,

safe in Christ for ever.

***All* Amen.**

Let us affirm, together with these who are being baptized, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?
***All* We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?
***All* We believe and trust in him**.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?
***All* We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church. This is our faith.
***All* We believe and trust in one God,**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

*Matthew is immersed in the water whilst the following words are said:*

I baptize you

in the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

May God,

who has received you by baptism into his Church,

pour upon you the riches of his grace,

that within the company of Christ’s pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,

and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

Amen.

*Friends, family, supporters and the congregation are invited to pray for Matthew at this point*

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:

by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

**All** We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;

we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

*The candidate informally welcomed with a round of applause!*

*A lighted candle is presented to Matthew and he is addressed:*

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness

and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;

walk in this light all the days of your life.

**All** Shine as a light in the world

to the glory of God the Father.

*The candle is extinguished, the candidate and their supporters return to their seats and the service continues.*

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