Christian Initiation: 
Additional Texts for Holy Baptism in Accessible Language

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Presentation of the Candidates

The candidates may be presented to the congregation. Where appropriate, they may be presented by their godparents or sponsors.

Either

At the baptism of infants, the president addresses the whole congregation

Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me. Do not stop them’.

We thank God for N and N who have come to be baptized today. Christ loves them and welcomes them into his Church.

So I ask you all:

Will you support these children as they begin their journey of faith?
All We will.

Will you help them to live and grow within God’s family?
All We will.

The president then addresses the parents and godparents

God knows each of us by name and we are his. Parents and godparents, you speak for N and N today. Will you pray for them, and help them to follow Christ?
We will.

Or

The president asks those candidates for baptism who are able to answer for themselves

Do you wish to be baptized?
I do.

Testimony by the candidate(s) may follow.

The president addresses the whole congregation

We thank God for N and N who have come to be baptized today. Christ loves them and welcomes them into his Church. Will you support them on their journey of faith?
All We will.
The Decision

The president addresses the candidates directly, or through their parents, godparents and sponsors

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.

The candidates, together with their parents, godparents and sponsors, may turn at this point.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?
I do.

Do you trust in him as Lord?
I do.
Signing with the Cross

The president or another minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, saying

Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

The president may invite parents, godparents and sponsors to sign the candidates with the cross.

When all the candidates have been signed, the president says

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.
Prayer over the Water

Either

Loving Father,
we thank you for your servant Moses,
who led your people through the waters of the Red Sea
to freedom in the Promised Land.
We thank you for your Son Jesus,
who has passed through the deep waters of death
and opened for all the way of salvation.
Now send your Spirit,
that those who are washed in this water
may die with Christ and rise with him,
to find true freedom as your children,
alive in Christ for ever.

All Amen.

Or

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.
Commission

Either  Where the newly baptized are unable to answer for themselves, a minister addresses the congregation, parents and godparents. The address includes

- The welcome of the Church, local and universal
- The importance of belonging to the Christian community
- The responsibilities of parents and godparents
- The challenge to grow in Christian discipleship

Or  Where the newly baptized are able to answer for themselves, a minister addresses them. The address includes

- The welcome of the Church, local and universal
- The importance of belonging to the Christian community
- The challenge to grow in Christian discipleship
- The call to share God’s love