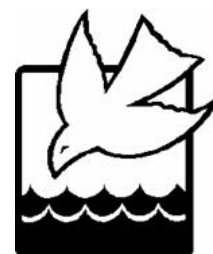


The Sacraments in the Church of the Nazarene

“Sacraments are effective means of God’s presence mediated through the created world. God becoming incarnate in Jesus Christ is the supreme instance of this kind of divine action. Wesley viewed the sacraments as crucial means of grace and affirmed the Anglican teaching that “a sacrament is ‘*an outward sign of inward grace, and a means whereby we receive the same.*’” Combining words, actions, and physical elements, sacraments are sign-acts which both express and convey God’s grace and love. Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are sacraments that were instituted or commanded by Christ in the Gospels.”¹

I. Christian Baptism

Baptism is the sacrament of *initiation and the sign of entry into Christian vocation*



Signs and Symbols Used: Water, Shell, Dove, Oil, Candle, Cross, White Robe, Laying on of Hands, Naming

- Baptism symbolizes the new covenant, the new birth, the washing away of sin, the death and resurrection of Jesus, the beginning of new life, and acceptance into the Christian community
- Baptism points *first* to the grace of God and *secondly* to our acceptance of that grace
- To be administered **once** by an ordained minister or a district licensed minister who is in an assigned role of ministry
- To be remembered and reflected upon **often** within the context of the Christian community
- May be administered by sprinkling, pouring or immersion
- Christian teaching (catechesis) needs to both precede and follow Christian baptism

Infant/Adult Baptism

The church...“does not accept either the idea that only believer’s baptism is valid or the notion that the baptism of infants magically imparts salvation apart from active personal faith.”²

“We affirm that while thanksgiving to God and dedication of parents to the task of Christian child-raising are aspects of infant baptism, the sacrament is primarily a gift of divine grace. Neither parents nor infants are the chief actors; baptism is an act of God in and through the Church.”³

In some missionary contexts where there is no Christian presence, adult baptism may be more appropriate though the baptism of infants to Christian parents has been the longest-standing Christian practice. The Church of the Nazarene accepts both as valid.

If the case of infant baptism:

- Encourage the selection of sponsors/godparents
- Encourage the participation of family members
- Teach! Teach! Teach!



¹ By Water and the Spirit: A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism © 2008 General Board of Discipleship

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

Practical Considerations

- Location – church, lake, river
- Time – Church calendar – Christmas, Easter, Pentecost
- Don't miss a teaching moment
- Mode – Sprinkling, pouring, immersion are acceptable – don't discriminate!
- Temperature of the water
- Let's see it – make it visible, hold child up
- Let's hear it – words, water
- Microphone?
- Use the best vessel – shell, pitcher, bowl
- Involve the Christian community and family/friends - no private baptisms!
- Share the stories – practice cultural sensitivity
- Do give instructions to baptismal candidates
- What to wear?
- Have a helper
- Mood – joyful and celebratory
- Involve the community in the liturgy



Baptismal Reaffirmation

- The baptism of other orthodox Christian churches is acceptable for receiving Christians from other traditions therefore re-baptism is unnecessary and should be avoided. The same is true of people who were baptized as children. When they experience a spiritual renewal later in life, it is not necessary that they be rebaptized.
- A service of reaffirmation is appropriate every time someone is baptized and at various times throughout the season of the church. It can be included into the liturgy and should involve the signs and symbols of baptism.

The Service of Baptism

The baptism should preferably take place within a service of worship and could ideally be followed by the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost are especially appropriate Sundays.

***Presentation of Candidates**

***Brief explanation of nature of baptism**

***A testimony to an adult's journey can be included here if desired
- this can be read by the sponsor or another**

***Presentation of Parent/Godparent/Sponsor and Charge**

Will you be responsible for seeing that Name is nurtured in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents/Sponsors

We will, with God's help.

Celebrant

Will you by your prayers and witness help Name to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents/Sponsors

We will, with God's help.

***– Questions for baptismal candidate (if adult) or Parents and Godparents (if infant)**

"In light of presenting Name, it is appropriate to your own baptismal vows as a parents and godparents to nurture Name in Christian faith and life." (if infant)

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces
of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer We renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world
which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer We renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you
from the love of God?

Answer We renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your
Savior?

Answer We do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer We do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your
Lord?

Answer We do.

***Congregational charge & reaffirmation of baptism**

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *Name* in *his/her* life in Christ?

People We will.

***Congregational Confession of Apostle's Creed**

Let us all renew our own baptismal covenant by confessing our common faith...*We believe in God...*

***Baptism**

Name, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

***Chrism – (Optional element of anointing with oil)**

Name, I anoint you with oil to signify that you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. *Amen.*

***Prayer of Blessing**

***Presentation to church**

Birth/Adoption of an Infant/Dedication of a Child

The birth or adoption of a child presents an opportunity for both parents and the Christian community to give thanks to God for the gift of children and to commit ourselves to supporting and raising the child in the church. Infant dedication as we know it today in the church is a fairly new invention.

It may be appropriate to visit the new child and family in the hospital or home shortly after birth in order to bless the child in that context. That visit could include a reading from Scripture and a brief prayer of blessing for the child and parents.



The more developed rite for use in the congregation is appropriate for Christian parents who do not wish their children to be baptized as infants or may be helpful in the case of people who want to give thanks to God but are not yet committed to the Christian faith or community.

Important: Infant dedication is NOT the same as Christian baptism and therefore NO WATER should be used in a dedication to avoid confusion. Teach! Teach! Teach!

Practical Considerations

- Involve the community and family in the liturgy and the celebration
- Make it visible
- Make it personal
- Follow up!
- Use symbolic gesture when presenting the child to the people
- Remain calm even if the child doesn't! We all know it's a baby!

Service of Dedication for Kylie Jaymes Eppler

Greeting

We have gathered this day to give thanks for the birth of Kylie and to dedicate her to God. The birth of a child is a joyous and solemn occasion in the life of a family. It is also an occasion for rejoicing in the Christian community. Let us join Keri and Jimmy in giving thanks to Almighty God our heavenly Father, the Lord of all life, for the gift of Kylie. Let us also join in encouraging *and* challenging them to be a Christian witness to their child and to raise her in the way of the Lord.

Psalm 116

Pastor: I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;

ALL: he heard my cry for mercy.

Pastor: Because he turned his ear to me,

ALL: I will call on him as long as I live.

Pastor: The LORD is gracious and righteous;

ALL: our God is full of compassion.

Pastor: How can I repay the LORD

ALL: for all his goodness to me?

Pastor: I will lift up the cup of salvation

ALL: and call on the name of the LORD.

Pastor: I will fulfill my vows to the LORD

ALL: in the presence of all his people.

Pastor: in the courts of the house of the LORD—

ALL: in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD.

Pastor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.

ALL: Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Read by: Christie Eppler

Gospel Reading – Matthew 19:13-14

Read by: Niki Schnegelberger

Words of Encouragement and Support

Prayer for Kylie

By: Justin Schnegelberger

Charge to Parents

In presenting this child for dedication you signify not only your faith in the Christian religion but also your desire that Kylie may early know and follow the will of God, may live and die a Christian, and come unto everlasting blessedness.

In order to obtain this holy end, it will be your duty, as parents, to teach her early the fear of the Lord, to watch over her education, that she will not be led astray; to direct her youthful mind to the Holy Scriptures, and her feet to the sanctuary; to restrain her from evil associates and habits; and, as much as in you lies, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Will you endeavor to do so by the help of God? If so, answer, "I will with God's help."

Charge to Family/Congregation

I now ask you, those gathered here as family, will you commit yourself as the Body of Christ to support and encourage these parents as they endeavor to fulfill their responsibilities to Kylie and assist by nurturing her growth toward spiritual maturity?

If so, please answer, "We will with God's help."

The Dedication

Kylie Jaymes Eppler, I make the sign of the cross on your forehead and now dedicate you to God in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray,

O God, I give you thanks for the blessing you have given to this family in giving them a child. We pray now for Kylie that as she grows, she will be healthy and strong in body and mind. We pray also that her heart will always be soft and open to your work in her life and that she will be aware of your Presence with her at all times. May she never know a day when she does not know you as Savior and Lord.

I pray also for Keri and Jimmy. Help them to be mindful of the awesome responsibility that comes with parenthood. Remind them that they are the primary means by which Kylie will grow in mind and heart. So I pray that you would soften their hearts as well. Confirm their joy by a lively sense of your presence with them, and give them calm strength and patient wisdom as they seek to bring this child to love all that is true and noble, just and pure, lovable and gracious, excellent and admirable, following the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Finally, I pray for all gathered here, that they may do their part to ensure that Kylie grows up knowing that she is loved and supported. May they gather around Keri and Jimmy and support them fully when they need it, especially in the hard times. May they be constant expressions of your love in the life of this family.

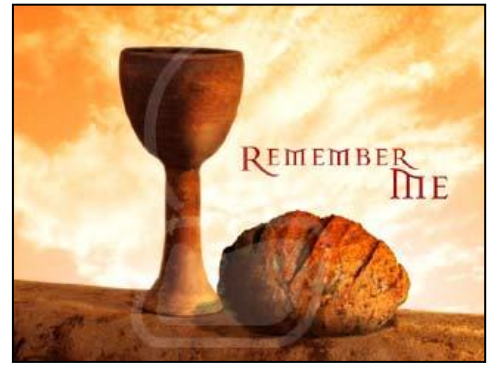
Bless now this child and these parents and this family in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

Presentation of Bible and Certificate of Dedication

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is the sacrament of *ongoing nourishment in the life of faith*

Signs and Symbols used: bread and wine, cup, paten, table, cross, candles



Various names including:

- Communion
- Lord's Supper
- Eucharist
- Great Thanksgiving
- Mass
- Divine Liturgy

What is happening theologically when we celebrate the Lord's Supper?

- Thanksgiving
- Fellowship
- Remembrance
- Sacrifice
- Action of the Holy Spirit
- Eschatology

Practical Considerations

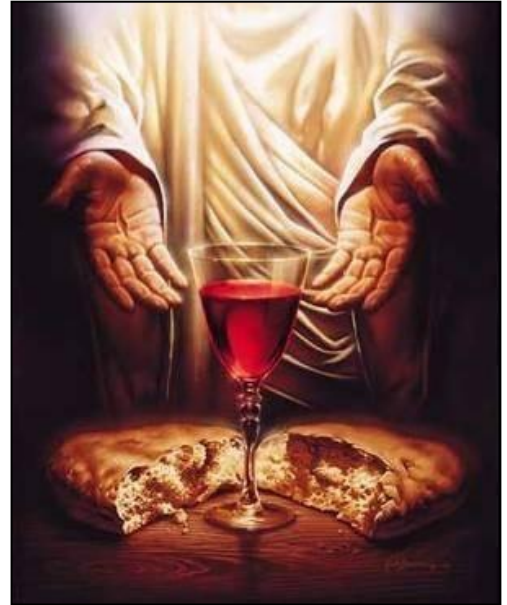
- How often should it be celebrated and by whom?
- Where is the Table and what it is there for?
- Where should you stand?
- Who is invited?
- What about children?
- Extend it to the homebound or hospitalized
- Protect the mystery! Resist *EXPLANATION* but *DO TEACH*
- Practice hospitality – No private communions! What about self-service or drop-in?
- Practice hygiene-consciousness!
- Involve the community – bread making, presentation of the gifts, liturgy, paraments, serving
- Let it be seen and heard! Don't apologize!
- Use gesture/posture
- How should it be served? Sitting, standing, kneeling, moving forward?
- Watch your language! We receive – we don't take!
- What vessels are needed?
- What needs to be said?

The Order of Communion

The celebration of communion should take place within a context of a gathered worship assembly following the hearing of the Word.

There are essentially six basic actions in the celebration:

- Prepare the table
- Invitation (including thanksgiving, confession and forgiveness)
- Take - Words of Institution (anamnesis)
- Bless - Pray the Eucharistic Prayer (epiclesis)
- Break - Break the bread
- Give - Receive communion
- Prayer of Thanksgiving



Christian Marriage

35.2. Ministers of the Church of the Nazarene are instructed to give due care to matters relating to solemnizing marriages. They shall seek, in every manner possible, to convey to their congregations the sacredness of Christian marriage. They shall provide premarital counseling in every instance possible before performing a marriage ceremony including proper spiritual guidance for those who have experienced divorce. They shall only solemnize marriages of persons having the biblical basis for marriage. (*Church of the Nazarene Manual 2005-2009*)



1 Byzantine wedding ring, depicting Christ uniting the bride and groom, 7th century

What is happening theologically when we celebrate Christian marriage?

- Worship – testimony to Christ’s love for the church
- Testimony to and celebration of the love of Christ at work between husband and wife
- Pronouncement of God’s blessing upon the marriage relationship and the Christian community’s commitment to support the couple in their married life
- The officiating minister is not just a “prop” to the service; you are bearing witness as a Christian minister with the couple about the relationship of marriage, Christian faith, and the role of the Christian community

What is your experience with Christian weddings? What are some of the common cultural wedding traditions that you encounter in your context?

Practical Considerations

- Practice pre-marital counseling – focus on the **marriage**, not just the *wedding* – minimum amount!
- Wedding rehearsal(s) – a pastoral opportunity
- Practice cultural sensitivity and attention to local customs and ceremonies and yet remain theologically critical - contextualize! *A Christian wedding doesn't necessarily mean a Western wedding.*
- Nazarene polity – Elder, Deacon, or assigned District Licensed minister
- Know the laws of your context as to who may officiate – may need to register – a civil ceremony may also be required
- Possible signing official documents for city, region, nation, etc. – who is responsible? Keep records!
- Photography Issues?
- Interreligious weddings? Interdenominational weddings?
- Set boundaries for what is included - Maintain balance between personalization/individualization and ensuring that the wedding bears witness to Christian worship
- Space
- Music - appropriateness, participation, etc.
- If communion is included, extend to everyone
- Make it personal!
- Be prepared – include instructions for yourself
- The ministry of weddings

Christian Burial

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised. The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.



What is your experience with Christian funerals? What are some of the common cultural funeral traditions that you encounter in your context?

What is the role of the minister?

What is the role of the funeral service(s)?

What should be said in a funeral sermon? Not said?

What about the funerals of unbelievers? Children? Tragedies?

The ministry of funerals – ongoing pastoral care

Finality

Remembrance

Comfort

Hope of Resurrection

Sample Funeral Service

The Gathering

The coffin may be received at the door by the minister.
Sentences of Scripture may be used.
The minister welcomes the people and introduces the service.
A tribute or tributes may be made.
Opening prayer.

Readings and Sermon

One or more readings from the Bible is used.
Psalms or hymns may follow the readings.
A sermon or homily is preached.

Prayers

The prayers may follow this sequence:
 Thanksgiving for the life of the departed
 Prayer for those who mourn
 Prayers of Penitence (if not already used)
 Prayer for readiness to live in the light of eternity

Commendation and Farewell

The person is commended to God.

The Committal - at the final resting place

The body is committed to its resting place

The Dismissal

The service may end with a blessing.

The minister says

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,
who died and was raised to the glory of
God the Father.

Grace and mercy be with you.

*The minister introduces the service in
these or other suitable words*

We have come here today
to remember before God our

brother/sister N ;

to give thanks for *his/her* life;

to commend *him/her* to God our merciful
redeemer and judge;

to commit *his/her* body to be

buried/cremated,

and to comfort one another in our grief.

We have entrusted our *brother/sister N*
to God's mercy, and we now commit
his/her body to the ground: earth to
earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust:
in sure and certain hope of the
resurrection to eternal life through our
Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform
our frail bodies that they may be
conformed to his glorious body,
who died, was buried, and rose again
for us. To him be glory for ever.

All Amen.

Prayers for the Sick

Anointing is the symbol of God's healing and comfort brought to a person who is suffering from sickness

James 5:14-15 (New International Version)

¹⁴Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

Signs and Symbols used: oil, laying on of hands, sign of the cross, Trinity

Where?

**Hospital
Surgery
Home
Worship**

When?

**Physical
Mental
Emotional
Spiritual**

Who?

**Pastor
Leader
Congregation**

What?

**Assurance of God's presence, power, and peace
Healing grace to body, mind, and spirit
For doctors, nurses, and all involved in care
Anxiousness and suffering**



Sample

Laying on of Hands (by pastor and others surrounding)

May include extemporaneous prayers for the person:

In the name of God and trusting in his might alone, receive Christ's healing touch to make you whole.

May Christ bring you wholeness of body, mind and spirit, deliver you from every evil, and give you his peace. **Amen.**

The Anointing (making the sign of the cross on the forehead)

N, I anoint you in the name of God who gives you life. Receive Christ's forgiveness, his healing and his love. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ grant you the riches of his grace, his wholeness and his peace.

Amen.

Church Membership

The formal acceptance of believers into the Church of the Nazarene

- *Teach – doctrine, polity, practice*
- *Be intentional about the process*
- *Connect with the mission and ministries of the church – Pentecost*
- *Another step in the life of faith*
- *A doorway, not a barrier*
- *A mutual commitment – involve the congregation!*
- *Make it a celebration*