

Today, Justin and Alyssa come to present their son, Alister Marcus, for baptism.

Justin and Alyssa:

As you bring your son for baptism, do you affirm your own faith in God as your Creator, Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, and the Holy Spirit as your Guide and Teacher? **WE DO**

Do you trust in the promises of God as shown in His Word? **WE DO**

With God's help, do you promise to raise Alister in a Christian home, to teach him to know and love the Lord, and to lead him by prayer and example to worship and serve the Lord Jesus Christ? **WE DO**

The Church of Jesus Christ makes promises in this covenant. People of God, will you stand and declare your promises of faith?

ALL: With God's help, we welcome Alister through the love of Christ into His Church. We promise to be a church family where he will know the love of God, and experience His truth and grace. We promise to teach Alister the Christian faith, and to encourage and nurture his own relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. We promise to pray for and support Justin and Alyssa in their call as parents, as they build a Christian home.

The Lord Jesus Christ said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark 10:14)

The Baptismal Prayer

The Baptism

Receiving into the Family of God

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called the children of God! (1 John 3:1)

- Presentation of the Baptismal Certificate
- Lighting the Baptism Candle

Prayer

ALL: Lord our God, forever faithful to Your promises, we thank You for assuring us once again that You love us and by grace, receive us as children in Christ. Bless Alister as he grows in Christ. Give wisdom, unconditional love, patience and joy as Justin and Alyssa care for and teach their children. Bless their home with Your presence.

Bless all our homes, and help us to fulfill the vows we have made. We pray that You will guide our children throughout their lives. Help them to grow in faith, in wisdom and love. Fill them with Your Spirit, and make their lives fruitful and pleasing to You. Give them strength in the midst of difficult times, and lead them to find the peace, hope, joy and love that come from serving Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. We give ourselves to Your care and keeping, this day and forever. AMEN.



THE BAPTISM OF THE CHILDREN OF BELIEVERS

Friends in Christ, let us hear our Lord's command concerning the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. After He had risen from death to life, Jesus Christ said to His disciples: *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.*

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. (Matthew 28:18-20)

In obedience to this command, the Church of Christ baptizes believers and their children.

ALL: In baptism we confirm the promises of God:

- The Lord made this great promise to Abraham: *"I will establish My covenant as an everlasting covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants. (Genesis 17:7)*
- In later years, though God's people were not always faithful, God remained faithful and renewed His covenant through the prophets: *I will put My law into their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people. (Jeremiah 31:32)*
- God came in Jesus Christ to show His truth, mercy, grace and power. Through Christ's death on the cross, we see again the promise of the covenant: *"...the blood of the covenant is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:28)*
- After Jesus Christ had risen from the dead and appeared to His disciples, Peter proclaimed: *"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:38-39)*

ALL: Thanks be to God for His unailing promises!

In the Sacrament of Baptism, we see God at work in our lives. In baptism, God seals the promises He gave when He made His covenant with us, calling us and our children to put our trust for life and death in Christ our Saviour, deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow the Lord in obedience and love.

God graciously includes our children in His covenant, and all His promises are for them as well. God takes the initiative and acts in love towards us first, and we respond to His grace. The work of God does not depend on us, but is the free gift of His mercy shown to us in Christ. Jesus Christ embraced little children and blessed them (*Mark 10:16*); the Apostle Paul said that the children of believers are holy (*1 Corinthians 7:14*) As a sign of God's promises and covenant made with us, we are baptized. **We teach our children through the years that they are loved by the Lord, and have been set apart by baptism as God's own children. We encourage them to make their own profession of faith as they grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.**