

## A Rite for Blessing a Child who is to Receive Baptism at an Older Age

*Celebrant*

What do you seek for this Child?

*Parents and Sponsors*

Life in Christ.

*Celebrant*

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents and Sponsors*

I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant*

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

*Parents and Godparents*

I will, with God's help.

*The Celebrant then addresses the congregation*

Will you who witness these promises support *this child* by prayer and example and help *him* to grow in the knowledge and love of God?

*People*

We will, with God's Help.

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us through your blessed Son that whoever receives a little child in the name of Christ receives Christ himself: We give thanks for the blessing you have bestowed upon this family in giving them a child. 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.

*Amen.*

*Each Child is presented by name to the Celebrant, who, with the thumb, marks a cross on the forehead of each with the Oil of the Catechumens, saying*

N., receive the sign of the Cross on your forehead and in your heart, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

O eternal God, you have promised to be a father to a thousand generations of those who love and fear you: Bless this child and preserve *his* life; receive *him* and enable *him* to receive you, that through the Sacrament of Baptism *he* may be affirmed as the child of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

*Adapted from the rites of Baptism and Thanksgiving (1979 BCP) and from the Admission of Catechumens (Book of Occasional Services) by the Rev. David Simmons, ObjN*