THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Leader: Let us pray...

God, you created us out of dust and dirt, loving us into being, so when people ask, “To whom do you belong?” we answer: We belong to you, God.

Leader: God, you promised Abraham to always be our God, and that we will always be your people, so when people ask “To whom do you belong?” we answer: We belong to you, God.

Leader: God you sent your only Son Jesus to begin to build the kingdom of God by showing us your love, so when people ask “To whom do you belong?” we answer: We belong to you, God.

Leader: God, through baptism you have bathed us in water and fire sealing the covenant of love that you have with us, so when people ask “To whom do you belong?” we answer: We belong to you, God.

Leader: Remember your baptism (take a moment to sprinkle the participants with water as a reaffirmation of their baptism) and give thanks forevermore that we can say with assurance, whenever people ask “To whom do you belong?” we answer: We belong to you, God.

Leader: Thanks be to God.

All: Amen.
SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

1 Songs of thank-ful-ness and praise, Je-sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
2 Man-i-fest at Jor-dan’s stream, proph-et, priest, and king su-preme;
3 Man-i-fest in mak-ing whole weak-ened bod- y, faint-ing soul;
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres-ent in thy ho-ly word;

man-i-fest-ed by the star to the sa-ges from a-far,
and at Ca-na wed-ding guest in thy God-head man-i-fest;
man-i-fest in val-i-ant fight, quell-ing all the dev-il’s might;
grace to im-i-tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

branch of roy-al Da-vid’s stem in thy birth at Beth-le-hem:
man-i-fest in pow’r di-vine, chang-ing wa-ter in-to wine;
man-i-fest in gra-cious will, ev-er bring-ing good from ill:
that we might be-come like thee at thy great e-piph-a-ny;

an-thems be to thee ad-dressed,
an-thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man-i-fest.
an-thems be to thee ad-dressed,
and may praise thee, ev-er blest,
ARISE, YOUR LIGHT HAS COME!

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.
APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Response: “hear our prayers.”

OFFERTORY PRAYER
God of grace and glory, you call us to be your people, faithful and courageous. As your beloved Son embraced his mission in the waters of baptism, inspire us with the fire of your Spirit to join in his transforming work. We ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER
One: Let us pray together ... 
All: Lord God, we give thanks that we are your children. We give thanks that we are each and every one of us a part of Jesus’ family. Help us to celebrate every baptism as a reminder that you value each and every child of God. Let us go into the world praising your name. And all God’s children say: Amen!
BENEDICTION

“May Light always surround you; Hope kindle and rebound you. May your hurts turn to healing; Your heart embrace feeling. May wounds become wisdom; Every kindness a prism. May Laughter infect you; Your passion resurrenct you. May goodness inspire your deepest desires. Through all that you reach for, May your arms never tire.” (D. Simone)

And may the almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you, comfort and protect you always. Amen.

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, o-ver the hills and ev’ry where;
go tell it on the moun-tain that Je-sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o’er si- lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a-bove the earth
3 Down in a lone-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light. rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior’s birth. and God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.