

Sacraments

Virginia Conference Licensing School

What is a Sacrament?

- A means of grace
- An outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace

A high-speed photograph of a water splash, showing multiple droplets and a large, turbulent mass of water. The water is a deep blue color. The text 'Holy Baptism' is overlaid in a white, serif font, centered horizontally and positioned in the lower half of the image. The word 'Holy' is on the top line and 'Baptism' is on the bottom line.

Holy Baptism

Baptism is

- Cleansing from sin
- Incorporation into God's people the church
- Entrance into the New Covenant
(Covenantal relationship with God in Jesus Christ)
- Beginning of journey into discipleship

(see pages 17 & 18, *By Water & the Spirit*)
by God's grace.

Modes of Baptism

- Sprinkling
- Pouring
- Immersion

“However it is administered, water should be utilized with enough generosity to enhance our appreciation of its symbolic meanings.” (Mark Stamm)

What About Infants?



- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Wesley practiced infant baptism
- Confirmation
- Be aware of salvation status concerns...

*“Who can believe, that in so many families there was no infant?”
(John Wesley)*

The background of the slide is a solid blue color with several overlapping, semi-transparent circular and oval shapes in varying shades of blue, creating a layered, abstract effect. The text is centered in white.

In Baptism the main actor is
God

Things to Avoid

- REBAPTIZING
- Offering a “dedication”
- Performing a Private Baptism



Credit:
everydayimpastoring.tumblr.com

The background is a blue gradient, transitioning from a lighter blue at the top to a darker blue at the bottom. A white border is visible around the edges of the image.

What Would *YOU* Do?

In Groups:

- Take turns practicing a baptism within your group

Helpful Hints 1

- Practice, practice, practice
- Print out the liturgy and put it in a binder (hymnals are unwieldy)
- Put some feeling into it: think about the holy drama!
- Memorize the blessing (“The Holy Spirit work within you...”)

Helpful Hints 2

- Know who you are baptizing!
- Baptismal Gifts
- Think about the logistics of baptism in your space
- Making sure you have hymnals or responses ready. Deacon, lay leader, involvement

Holy Communion



TRUEVINE

CHALICE

PREFILLED COMMUNION CUPS



Holy Communion

- Can be practiced as frequently as possible
- Fuel for the journey - means of grace
- Not just a remembrance, but the real presence of Christ (see page 23, *This Holy Mystery*)
- A converting ordinance-experience
- Open Table
- Eschatology

Helpful Hints 1

- Welch's grape juice
- We "Receive" rather than "Take" Communion
- Extending the Table (see pages 37-38, This Holy Mystery)
 - Times when you do not engage the full Great Thanksgiving
- If you are going to Riff...do so with liturgical integrity.
- Pandemic impacts...some have been offering communion virtually.

Helpful Hints 2

- Practice, practice, practice
- Memorize the Great Thanksgiving or parts of it...
- Print out the liturgy and stick it in a binder
- Communion ware and set up
- Consider logistics of serving
- How does it fit into the worship service – see page 71, *This Holy Mystery*

Things to Avoid

- Acting bored
- Pre-blessing the elements
- Making it up as you go along
- Getting **overly** creative with communion
- Throwing out consecrated elements - return to the earth

When someone tries to throw
away leftover communion bread:



Credit:
everydayimpastoring.tumblr.com

In Groups:

- Take turns practicing presiding and assisting.

REMEMBER ... this is POWERFUL!!!



Deacons & Elders - Partners



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Questions?