



THE ECUMENICAL PROTESTANT CHURCH IN AMERICA

A Short Home Rite of Profession and Entrance

For the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America

For private use at home by a person who desires to enter the fellowship of the Church through prayer, profession of faith, and sincere intention before Almighty God.

Including rubrics, the Apostles' Creed, provisions for baptized Christians and unbaptized candidates for baptism, recording instructions, and written profession forms.

Ecclesiastical Use: This rite is intended for personal prayer and church record. It is not a substitute for Holy Baptism. Those not yet baptized should seek Christian baptism in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit as soon as reasonably possible.

Prepared as a formal rite for online and home reception procedures.

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Prefatory Note

This rite is provided for a person who, while at home and alone before God in prayer, desires to make a solemn Christian profession and to enter the pastoral fellowship of the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America.

The rite recognizes two situations. First, a person already baptized with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit may be received into the fellowship of the Church by a profession of faith. Second, a person not yet baptized may profess the Christian faith and be enrolled as a candidate for Holy Baptism, with the intention of entering the Church and receiving baptism.

Important distinction: A baptized Christian is not baptized again. An unbaptized person is not treated as having received baptism by this rite; rather, the person declares faith in Christ and the intention to receive Christian baptism.

The completed profession should be submitted to the Church through its official website or through the email address designated on that website. A video recording is preferred. If video is not possible, an audio recording or a signed written profession may be submitted.

General Rubrics Before Beginning

The person should prepare reverently and without haste. A table, desk, or prayer space may be prepared with a Holy Bible, a cross if available, a candle if safely used, and a printed or digital copy of this rite.

The person should be in a quiet place. The Bible should be placed before the person. When directed, the person places the right hand upon the Holy Bible as a visible sign that the profession is made before God and grounded in Holy Scripture.

The rite is ordinarily prayed aloud. If the person is unable to speak, the rite may be read silently, signed, or otherwise expressed with sincere intention before God.

The person should use only the baptismal declaration and final declaration that apply to their condition: one form is provided for a person already baptized, and another for a person not yet baptized.

After the rite, the person should complete a record of profession and submit it through the official website of the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America, or by email if that is the method designated by the Church. This allows the Church to record the profession and provide pastoral care, instruction, and follow-up.

The Rite

1. Opening Prayer

The person stands or kneels before the Bible. A brief silence is kept.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,

I come before you in faith, humility, and prayer.

I desire to belong to your Church,

to confess the Christian faith,

to follow your Gospel,
and to live as your disciple.

Guide me by your Holy Spirit,
strengthen me in truth,
and receive this profession which I now make before you.
Amen.

2. Placing the Hand Upon the Bible

The person now places the right hand upon the Holy Bible and keeps it there during the profession, unless unable to do so.

With my hand upon the Holy Bible,
I declare before Almighty God
that I desire to enter the fellowship, worship, doctrine, and mission
of the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America.

I receive the Holy Scriptures
as the rule and standard of Christian faith and life.

I confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior,
and I desire to walk in repentance, faith, prayer, charity, service, and fellowship.
Amen.

3. Declaration Concerning Baptism

The person says only the form that applies.

If already baptized, say:

I have been baptized with water
in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

I do not seek to be baptized again,
but I now renew my Christian faith
and enter the fellowship of the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America
by this profession before God.
Amen.

If not yet baptized, say:

I have not yet received Christian baptism,
but I desire to be baptized with water
in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

By this profession before God,
I declare my intention to enter the life of the Church,
to learn the Christian faith,
and to receive Holy Baptism as soon as I am able.
Amen.

4. The Apostles' Creed

The person keeps the hand upon the Bible and recites the Apostles' Creed slowly and reverently.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

5. Act of Intention

The person says only the form that applies.

If already baptized, say:

Before Almighty God,
and with my hand upon the Holy Scriptures,
I profess the Christian faith
and enter the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America.

I ask God to receive this act of faith,
to renew the grace of my baptism,

and to strengthen me as a member of Christ's Church.

I commit myself, with God's help,
to worship, prayer, Scripture, repentance, charity, service,
and the unity of the Church of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

If not yet baptized, say:

Before Almighty God,
and with my hand upon the Holy Scriptures,
I profess the Christian faith
and declare my desire to enter the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America.

I ask God to prepare me for Holy Baptism,
to teach me the way of Jesus Christ,
and to bring me into the full sacramental life of the Church.

I commit myself, with God's help,
to worship, prayer, Scripture, repentance, charity, service,
and preparation for baptism.
Amen.

6. Prayer of Commitment

The person may remain standing or kneel.

Almighty God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
receive my profession of faith.

Forgive my sins, strengthen my heart,
guide my mind, and order my life according to your holy will.

Make me faithful in prayer,
steadfast in Scripture,
humble in repentance,
generous in love,
and obedient to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Unite me with your holy Church,
and help me live as a witness to your grace, mercy, and truth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

7. The Lord's Prayer

The person may lift the hands, fold the hands, or keep the hand upon the Bible.

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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

8. Final Declaration

The person says only the form that applies.

If already baptized, say:

Having been baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
and having now confessed the Apostles' Creed before God,
I enter the fellowship of the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America
with sincere faith and intention.

May God confirm this act of faith
and keep me steadfast in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

If not yet baptized, say:

Having confessed the Apostles' Creed before God,
I now declare my intention to enter the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America
and to receive Christian baptism
in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

May God prepare me for baptism
and keep me steadfast in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

9. Closing Blessing

The person may make the sign of the cross.

The Lord bless me and keep me.

The Lord make his face to shine upon me and be gracious to me.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon me and give me peace.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Submission and Verification of the Profession

Because this rite is made privately at home before God, the person should make a record of the profession and submit it to the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America for reception, enrollment, and pastoral follow-up.

The preferred method is a video recording of the person completing the essential part of the rite, especially the placing of the hand upon the Holy Bible, the recitation of the Apostles' Creed, and the final declaration of intention.

If video is not possible, the person may submit one of the following:

1. An audio recording of the profession of faith, including the Apostles' Creed and the declaration of intention.
2. A signed and dated written profession of faith.
3. A scanned or clearly photographed copy of the signed written profession, submitted through the Church website or by email as directed on the Church website.

Website submission: After completing the rite, submit the video, audio, or signed written record through the official website of the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America. If the website directs submission by email, send the scanned or photographed record to the email address listed by the Church.

Essential Words to Be Recorded

For a video or audio recording, the person should say the applicable form clearly. The complete rite may be recorded, but the following words constitute the essential recorded profession.

For One Already Baptized

I, **[Full Name]**, having been baptized with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, place my hand upon the Holy Bible and confess the Christian faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

Before Almighty God, I enter the fellowship of the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America with sincere faith and intention. I ask God to strengthen me in faith, repentance, worship, Scripture, charity, service, and Christian fellowship. Amen.

For One Not Yet Baptized

I, **[Full Name]**, not yet having received Christian baptism, place my hand upon the Holy Bible and confess the Christian faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

Before Almighty God, I declare my intention to enter the life of the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America and to receive Christian baptism in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. I ask God to prepare me for baptism and guide me in the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Written Profession Forms

If a written profession is used, the person should complete the applicable form, sign and date it, then scan or clearly photograph it for submission through the Church website or by email as directed by the Church.

Record of Reception for One Already Baptized

I, [Full Name], having been baptized with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, have placed my hand upon the Holy Bible, confessed the Apostles' Creed, and made a sincere profession of faith before Almighty God.

By this profession, I enter the fellowship of the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America. I make this declaration freely, sincerely, and prayerfully, asking God to strengthen me in faith, repentance, worship, Scripture, charity, service, and Christian fellowship.

Full Name:

Date:

Location:

Email

or

Contact

Information:

Signature:

Church Use Only

Date Received:

Received By:

Pastoral Follow-up:

Notes:

Record of Enrollment as a Candidate for Holy Baptism

I, **[Full Name]**, not yet having received Christian baptism, have placed my hand upon the Holy Bible, confessed the Apostles' Creed, and made a sincere profession of faith before Almighty God.

By this profession, I declare my intention to enter the life of the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America and to receive Holy Baptism in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. I make this declaration freely, sincerely, and prayerfully, asking God to prepare me for baptism and guide me in the way of Jesus Christ.

Full Name:

Date:

Location:

Email

or

Contact

Information:

Signature:

Church Use Only

Date Received:

Received By:

Baptism Preparation:

Notes:

Suggested Website Instructions

The following text may be placed on the Church website near the submission form:

After completing the Home Rite of Profession and Entrance, please submit your record of profession through this website.

A video recording is preferred. Your recording should show or state that you placed your hand upon the Holy Bible, confessed the Apostles' Creed, and made your declaration of intention before God. If video is not possible, you may submit an audio recording or a signed written profession.

If submitting a written profession, please sign and date it, then scan or photograph it clearly before uploading it here or emailing it to the address listed by the Church.

For baptized Christians, this submission records your reception into the fellowship of the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America.

For those not yet baptized, this submission records your enrollment as a candidate for Holy Baptism and allows the Church to provide instruction, pastoral care, and guidance toward baptism.

Suggested Website Form Fields

The Church may include the following fields on its website submission form:

Full legal name; preferred name; date of profession; city and state or country; contact email; phone number if desired; baptismal status; prior church affiliation if any; type of submission; file upload; pastoral comments; consent to be contacted by the Church.

Suggested consent language:

I affirm that I have completed the Home Rite of Profession and Entrance sincerely and voluntarily before God. I authorize the Ecumenical Protestant Church in America to receive this record, contact me for pastoral follow-up, and maintain a church record of my profession or enrollment.

Soli Deo Gloria