Hello, Brothers and Sisters. Thank you all for being here today. I am so grateful to have so many wonderful family and friends here today. I am grateful for the sacrifices some made to fly from out of town to be here today to show your love and support. Some of you I’ve known many years. You have witnessed the growth of our family as we have progressed in the gospel and as I have progressed to this point today. I don’t know how to express just how much it means to me to look out and see you here with me today. It truly warms my heart to feel the love and support of all present today.

Five years ago, I didn’t know much about Jesus Christ or Christianity. I was born and raised in a Buddhist family. I didn’t know if the stories about Jesus were fact or fiction. I had no knowledge of Christianity or the Latter-day Saint Church until I met my husband. I knew him for many years before we married. He introduced me the Church. I told him I wouldn’t join the Church just because we married. I told him if one day I decided to be baptized, I want to know more about the Church and its teachings first. The decision to be baptized had to be 100% my choice.

So, I want to thank you, Sean. You are a wonderful man and a loving husband and father, always putting your family before yourself. Sean has an incredible work ethic, he always has a positive attitude and has awesome energy toward life. We help each other and challenge each other to be positive every day. He is my loudest cheerleader and greatest motivator. He is a man who puts actions behind his encouraging words. I witness this every day. With all his outstanding qualities, I had no idea when I married him the greatest quality he possesses and the greatest blessing he could bring into our marriage was the gospel of Jesus Christ. I didn’t understand how spirituality could bring so many blessings to our family and give us something extra I wasn’t expecting. When I was learning about the gospel, he gave me space and time to come to this decision to be baptized in my own time. I want to know the foundation of my faith is strong. I feel so joyful to be taking this step toward making the foundation of my faith stronger every day. I have joy knowing there are more blessings to come. I’m looking forward to the day when we can be sealed with our children for time and all eternity. This is a miracle to me. I used to think that marriage was just for this life. I wondered what happened after this life is over. I used to be afraid of death because I didn’t know what happened after our time on earth. The gospel answers this when I pray with a sincere heart, the Holy Ghost answers my prayers and helps me to know we can be a family forever. I’m not afraid of death now because I know Heavenly Father has a plan for His children. Letting go of that fear is a precious feeling.

This brings me to my children because as much as I love Sean and want to spend eternity with him, heaven would not truly be heaven without Ryan, Olivia, and Sean. My motherhood has been the greatest blessing I have received. I learn so much from my children. They make me laugh, and cry, and pull out my hair at times! Each of them is so unique and so perfect to me. My children make me reflect on my life because I want to make myself a better person for myself, but also for them. I want them to know Heavenly Father is always there when they need Him and because of His perfect plan, we will be together forever.

I want to take a moment to say I am very grateful for my wonderful earthly parents and I am thankful for all they did for me. I’m so happy my sisters, Katy and Karen, could be here today. I feel so blessed to have a such amazing parents and siblings. My Dad is a good man and a hard-working, loving father. Thank you, Dad, for all you have done for me. My family is very important to me. After my parents’ divorce, I had a difficult time understanding what was happening, how the changes would affect me and my family. Now, with the light of the gospel in my life, I see it all differently. I see this from an eternal perspective and that brings peace to my heart. I’m also grateful Sean’s parents could be here today. I have a fantastic mother-in-law and father-in-law. Thank you, Amy and Peter. You give me your love so generously. Thank you so much.

When I think about my mother and my heart swells with gratitude for all she has done for me. When I young was not always the most obedient daughter. I found it very hard to say kind, sweet things to my mother. Sometimes my mom would say, “I sacrificed a lot for you. All I suffered and all the difficulties I went through brought blessings to your life. Because of my sacrifice, you are more fortunate and blessed to live a better life than me.” When she said this, I would get so upset and defensive. My heart was hard and I didn’t understand what she meant until I became a mother myself and learned more about Jesus Christ and His atonement, I finally understood my mom. The love my mother has for me is very similar to the love Jesus has for us. He made the greatest sacrifice of all through His Atonement so His people would not have to suffer as He did. After I realized this, I felt a huge weight lifted from my shoulders. I admitted to myself all my mom sacrificed for me; a single mom raising a daughter caused her a lot of suffering. I can never imagine what she went through. Mom, you are a courageous and loving woman and I have so much respect for you. I want you to know the past doesn’t matter now and you can count on me to take good care of you. I will continue doing things Heavenly Father wants me to do and I hope through my obedience to Heavenly Father, I will bring blessings to your life, Mom.

I would like to thank the missionaries, Elder Hales, Elder Natress, Elder Foutz, who are among many of the amazing missionaries who have taught me the gospel. Thank you for your persistence, your patience, and most of all, for not giving up on me. The work you do is more meaningful than you can know. It has impacted me tremendously and I know you will continue to impact others you teach. So, I would like to use the words of Elder Jeffrey R. Holland to further encourage you, “Don’t give up. Don’t you quit. You keep walking. You keep trying...You keep your chin up. It will be all right in the end. Trust God and believe in good things to come” (“An High Priest of Good Things to Come”, General Conference address, October, 1999).

My dear special friend, Heidi, thank you for being here today. You have supported me in so many ways since we met. You have taught me in so many ways helped lead me to this point today. You set a good example of what it is to be an amazing wife, loving mother, and a devoted Christian; always happy, faithful, wise, and loyal. Your example inspires me and you hold a precious place in my heart. Many brothers and sisters have guided and helped me along my journey. I see the families in the Church who are tight-knit families with good morals, good values, are strong in the gospel, happy, and have the glow of an eternal family in their countenances. This is one of the things which drew me in and fed my desire to know more about the Church. What makes them happier? Now I know it is the gospel of Jesus Christ that makes the difference. This is how Sean and I want to raise our children. The right way, according to the correct doctrines and principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

To help me raise my children according to gospel doctrines and principles, I’ve had to learn them myself. I am still learning them. What I have learned so far is having a strong family, rooted in morals and values can help us overcome temptations and develop and unshakable faith in God. There is a Chinese saying that roughly translates, “When there is no desire, you become invincible.” This means, when we have nothing in our lives to distract us, we have power over our lives. When I exercise my agency to choose the right, to discipline myself and show self-control, I personally experience greater peace of mind. The gospel has also helped change my way of thinking and helped me be a more forgiving person. Understanding repentance has helped me in ways I never imagined. We live in a busy world and we have so many responsibilities it can be hard to take the time to reflect on our lives and see where we need to do better. I’m grateful the opportunity to repent and change for the better. Also, learning of the power of prayer has made the trials and burdens of daily life easier because I know God is there. He hears me, comforts me, and answers me. It is such a good feeling to know Heavenly Father is looking out for us and to know He loves each of us personally. This knowledge infuses my heart with warmth and peace. I believe Heavenly Father has prepared this earth for our eternal progression. He provides a place for us to work out our salvation through the experiences of life. These experiences help us to learn, grow, and develop the qualities God sees in us.

My baptism is just the beginning of my journey toward eternal life with Heavenly Father. I would like to share a few scriptures with you which express how I feel about my journey to baptism and how I plan to keep moving forward as I embark on this lifelong journey toward my eternal home with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. In Alma 32, Alma the Younger is teaching the Zoramites a parable about how our faith begins very small, like a seed. Alma the Younger encourages the Zoramites to experiment on his words and compares them to a seed. In verses 27 and 28 he says,

*“…if ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to an experiment upon my words, and exercise a particle of faith, yea, even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words.*

*Now, we will compare the word unto a seed. Now, if ye give place, that a seed may be planted in your heart…if ye do not cast it out by your unbelief…it will begin to swell within your breasts…for it beginneth to enlarge my soul; yea, it beginneth to enlighten my understanding, yea, it beginneth to be delicious to me.”*

This is what I did when I began to learn about the gospel. I allowed the seed of the gospel to be planted in my heart and it began to swell and I could understand more and more the gospel is true. It slowly began to be delicious to me. Alma continues his teaching in verse 30.

*But behold, as the seed swelleth, and sprouteth, and beginneth to grow…will not this strengthen your faith? Yea, it will strengthen your faith: for ye will say I know that this is a good seed; for behold it sprouteth and beginneth to grow.*

All of you here today have helped this seed to sprout and grow. My study and the examples around me help my faith to grow. I see the seed is sprouting and the fruit is good and I want more of it. This is my plan for the future. It’s not enough for me to be baptized. My heart wasn’t completely open at the beginning of this journey, but now it is and I want to be a better person and a better servant of God. My daily goal is to try my best, to improve myself, to learn more about the gospel of Jesus Christ, and use my influence to raise my children in the gospel, and spread love to the world. I long for a world where there could be more peace, unity, friendship, and love. I would like to ask Heavenly Father to bless each of you and your families with peace and love of our Savior, Jesus Christ, during these difficult times.

Finally, I want to say again how important all of you are to me as I go through this journey of life. I believe that no matter what has happened in the past, both good things and bad things, they have helped me to grow and have brought me to this point to be baptized today. My heart full of joy, gratitude, and hope for the future and I am grateful to Heavenly Father for His love for me. Thank you all for being here today to add to the sweetness and sacredness of this day. I’m so very grateful to have the infinite love of Heavenly Father and our Savior, Jesus Christ. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.