

BLESSING FOR A HOME

When all have gathered, the leader begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who spreads forth the heavens like a tent, who shelters our lives, who comes to make a home with us.

Amen.

Friends in Christ, we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we gather in our dwellings and pray for those who are in their own homes.

A reading from Proverbs: By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (*Proverbs 24:3-4*)

A candle is lighted.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life."

The people now move around the home, stopping in various places.

A place of entering and leaving, such as the front doors

A reading from the Psalms: The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore. (*Psalms 121:8*)

Peace to this dwelling and to all who enter here. Let us pray. O God, watch over name/s in all their going out and their coming in; keep all evil away from their door; and let them share the hospitality of this home with all who visit, that those who enter here may know your love and peace. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

A place for preparing meals, such as the kitchen

A reading from Joel: I am sending you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied. Be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God. (*Joel 2:19, 23*)

Let us pray. O God, you fill the hungry with good things. Send your blessing on those who prepare food here, and make us all ever thankful for daily bread. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

A place for sharing the gift of food, such as a dining table

A reading from the Psalms: The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season. You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (*Psalms 145:15-16*)

Let us pray. Blessed are you, Creator of heaven and earth, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad. Make us grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

A place where common activities are shared, such as a living room

A reading from Ecclesiastes: So I commend enjoyment, for there is nothing better for people under the sun than to eat, and drink, and enjoy themselves, for this will go with them in their toil through the days of life that God gives them under the sun. (*Ecclesiastes 8:15*)

Let us pray. O God, you set apart time for rest and enjoyment of the world you made. Bless those who gather here for fellowship and recreation, that they may be renewed and refreshed. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

A place for recognizing the gift of clothing, such as a laundry area

A reading from Exodus: So Moses went down from the mountain to the people. He consecrated the people, and they washed their clothes. (*Exodus 19:14*)

Let us pray. O God, you are our clothing, wrapping us in love. We bless you for the gift of clothing, and we pray that all who live here may be clothed and blanketed in safety. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

A place of caring for the body, such as a bathroom or an exercise area

A reading from the Psalms: You yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well. (*Psalms 139:13-14*)

Let us pray. O God, through the waters of baptism you raise us up and make us alive together with Christ. Let the waters of this room refresh and renew *all who use them* in each new day. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

A place for making or fixing things, such as a sewing area or workshop

A reading from the Psalms: May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork. (*Psalms 90:17*)

Let us pray. O God, you are the source of our creativity. You fashioned our minds to imagine and our hands to shape new things. Prosper the work that is done in this place. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

A place of rest for the body, such as a person's bedroom

A reading from the Psalms: In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure. (*Psalms 4:8*)

Let us pray. Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace. May those who sleep in this home find rest and respite, privacy and connection. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

A place where a pet sleeps or animals are kept

A reading from the Psalms: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds, young men and maidens, old and young together. (*Psalms 148:7, 10, 12*)

Let us pray. O God, we thank you for bringing this/these wonderful animals to be this home's companion(s) and friend(s). May all who live here be blessings one to another. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

A garden or an outdoor space

A reading from Job: Ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In God's hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being. (*Job 12:7-10*)

Let us pray. O God, we praise you for the green plants that make the oxygen we breathe and for the animals that breathe it with us. Sustain us all together in this place by your Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

After all areas are blessed, the leader may say these words:

Beloved in Christ, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on our Lord Jesus, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit your servants together into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them in their commitment serve in Christ's name. Give *them* courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Dwell here in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

This order is meant to provide a pattern to follow rather than a script. The basic pattern involves moving around the home and stopping at various places for scripture and prayer. Those planning for this rite may feel free to choose from the options here, rearrange them as makes best sense in the context, and add other stopping places as desired. Symbols may be used to mark the journey. Remembrances of baptism, such as carrying a candle from place to place or sprinkling water at each stopping place, recall that the life of the baptized is lived within these places. Carrying a cross from place to place, perhaps a cross that will hang on one of the walls, is a reminder that those who live here are called to follow in the way of the cross also in their daily lives.