

THANKSGIVING *for the*
BIRTH OR ADOPTION
of A CHILD

The Birth or Adoption of a Child is always an occasion for thanksgiving and prayer in family and community. This rite is provided for use in a hospital or home, during public worship, or in some other appropriate place. If used in public worship, this liturgy takes place at the Peace or at the close of the Office. If used apart from public worship, a passage of Scripture is first read. Luke 18:15-17 or the Gospel appointed for the day is appropriate.

FOR THE BIRTH OF A CHILD

The Officiant addresses the mother and father

Dear Friends: The birth of a child is a joyous and solemn occasion in the life of a family, and an occasion for rejoicing in the Church. It has pleased Almighty God, our heavenly Father, to bless you with the gift of N., your *son*.

FOR AN ADOPTION

The Officiant addresses the mother and father

Dear Friends: The adoption of a child is a joyous and solemn occasion in the life of a family, and an occasion for rejoicing in the Church. Our heavenly Father has given us the Spirit of adoption, that we who were strangers might become members of the household of God. It has pleased Almighty God, our heavenly Father, to bless you with the gift of N. your *son*.

The service continues with the Magnificat or Psalm 116, the Officiant first saying

Let us, therefore, give thanks to God in the words of Scripture.

MAGNIFICAT
The Song of Mary

My soul magnifies the Lord, *
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
For he has regarded *
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from now on, *
all generations will call me blessed;
For he that is mighty has magnified me, *
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on those who fear him, *
throughout all generations
He has shown the strength of his arm; *
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has exalted the humble and meek.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent empty away.
He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel, *
as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

or this

PSALM 116
(vv.1-2,3b-5,11-12,16)

- 1 I love the LORD, *
because he heard the voice of my prayer,
2 Because he inclined his ear to me; *
therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.
3b I suffered trouble and sorrow.
4 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
“O LORD, I beseech you, deliver my soul.”
5 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; *
indeed, our God is full of compassion.
11 What shall I give unto the LORD *
for all the benefits that he has done unto me?
12 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
16 I will pay my vows unto the LORD in the sight of all his people, *
in the courts of the LORD’s house, even in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie and the Lord’s Prayer follow, unless this rite is used within public worship.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with your spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People say together

**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.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And 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 for ever. Amen.**

If the occasion is the birth of a child, the Officiant may address the mother as follows. Otherwise, the liturgy continues with the Prayer for the Child.

N., as it has pleased Almighty God, of his goodness, to give you a safe delivery, and to preserve you in the trials of childbirth, let us give thanks to God:

Officiant O Lord, you have saved this woman, your servant,

People **Who put her trust in you.**

Officiant Be to her a strong tower,

People **Against the face of the enemy.**

Officiant O Lord, hear our prayer;

People **And let our cry come to you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you humble thanks for graciously preserving, through the pain and peril of childbirth, your servant

N., who now desires to offer her praises and thanksgivings to you. Grant, we ask you, most merciful Father, that she, with your help, may faithfully live according to your will in this life, and may also partake in the everlasting glory of the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE CHILD

The Officiant then prays one or both of the following prayers.

Watch over your child N., O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless *him* and guide *him*, and keep *him* unspotted from the world. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* falls; and in *his* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O eternal God, you have promised to be a father to a thousand generations of those who love and fear you: Bless this child and preserve *his* life; receive *him* and enable *him* to receive you, that through your grace and the Sacrament of Baptism *he* may become the child of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Officiant may add one or more of the following prayers.

FOR THE PARENTS

O God, you have taught us through your blessed Son that whoever receives a little child in the Name of Christ receives Christ himself: We give thanks for the blessing you have bestowed upon this family in giving them this child. Confirm their joy by a lively sense of your presence with them, and give them calm strength and patient wisdom as they seek to bring this child to love all that is true and noble, just and pure, lovable and gracious, excellent and admirable, following the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

FOR A SIBLING

Heavenly Father, your Son our Savior took young children into his arms and blessed them: Strengthen N. to be a wholesome and godly example, a companion, and an encourager to *his* new *brother*. Keep them from strife and discord, and when they hurt one another, give them your grace readily to forgive; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR THE BIRTH PARENTS OF AN ADOPTED CHILD

Heavenly Father, we ask you to bless each of the birth parents of this child. Reveal to them the fullness of your love for them and for the child entrusted to this family; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Officiant prays for the family, saying

May God the Father, who through Baptism has adopted you as his children, grant you his grace. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who sanctified a home at Nazareth, fill you with his love. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, who makes the Church one family, keep you in his peace. **Amen.**

A Priest may then bless the family, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Peace may be exchanged.

ADDITIONAL DIRECTIONS

The minister shall encourage parents not to defer the Baptism of their children. This rite does not serve to replace Holy Baptism, but provides the opportunity for families to give thanks upon the birth or adoption of a child.

The minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their children, and the duty of all persons, as stewards of God's provision, to make a will.

This liturgy may only be adapted with the permission of the Bishop. In difficult circumstances, this service may require particular pastoral sensitivity.

In the case of a single parent, the address "*N. and N.*" is shortened to "*N.*" In the case of the mother dying in childbirth or some other tragic event, the Church still proclaims, even through pain, that the child is a gift from God.