

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

Dearly beloved: 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 hath 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

Dearly beloved: 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 hath given us the Spirit of adoption, that we who were strangers might become members of the household of God. It hath 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 unto God in the words of Scripture.

MAGNIFICAT
The Song of Mary

My soul doth magnify the Lord, *
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded *
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth *
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, *
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him *
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm; *
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination
of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, *
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, *
as he promised to our forefathers,
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.

LUKE 1:46-55

or this

PSALM 116
(*vv.1-2,4-5,11-12,16*)

- 1 My delight is in the LORD; *
because he hath heard the voice of my prayer;
- 2 Because he hath inclined his ear unto me; *
therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.
- 4 I found trouble and heaviness;
then called I upon the Name of the LORD; *
O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.
- 5 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; *
yea, our God is merciful.
- 11 What reward shall I give unto the LORD *
for all the benefits that he hath done unto me?
- 12 I will receive 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 thee,
O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
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 thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us. *or*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 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.**

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., forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God of his goodness, to give thee safe deliverance, and hath preserved thee in the great danger of child-birth: let us therefore give hearty thanks unto God.

Officiant O Lord, save this woman thy servant;

People **Who putteth her trust in thee.**

Officiant Be thou to her a strong tower,

People **From the face of the enemy.**

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;

People **And let our cry come unto thee.**

Officiant Let us pray.

O Almighty God, we give thee humble thanks for that thou hast been graciously pleased to preserve, through the great pain and peril of child-birth, this woman, thy servant *N.*, who

desireth now to offer her praises and thanksgivings unto thee. Grant, we beseech thee, most merciful Father, that she, through thy help, may faithfully live according to thy will in this life present, and also may be partaker of everlasting glory in 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 thy 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* fall; and in *his* heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O eternal God, who hast promised to be a father to a thousand generations of those who love and fear thee: Bless this child and preserve *his* life; receive *him* and enable *him* to receive thee, that through thy grace and the Sacrament of Baptism *he* may become a 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, who hast taught us through thy blessed Son that whosoever receives a little child in the Name of Christ receives Christ himself: We give thee thanks for the blessing thou hast bestowed upon this family in giving them this child. Confirm their joy by a lively sense of thy presence, 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

O heavenly Father, whose 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*. Preserve them from quarrel and strife, and through injury give them thy grace readily to forgive; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOR THE BIRTH PARENTS OF AN ADOPTED CHILD

O heavenly Father, we beseech thee to bless the birth parents of this child. Reveal the fullness of thy love, both 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 hath 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 Ghost, who maketh 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 Ghost, be amongst 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.