**BLESSING OF EPIPHANY CHALK**

*After the Post-Communion Prayer in the Eucharist for the Epiphany, the following blessing may be said over chalk which is to be used to mark homes.*

Almighty God, bless this chalk which you have created, that it may be helpful to your people; and grant that through the invocation of your most Holy Name that we who use it in faith to write upon the door of our home the names of your holy ones Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, may receive health of body and protection of soul for all who dwell in or visit our home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**BLESSING OF HOMES AT EPIPHANY**

*The office begins at the door and the Officiant says*

*Officiant* Peace be to this house.

*People* **And to all who dwell in it.**

*The Magnificat may be said or sung as the Officiant and people enter the home, or at the doorway.*

**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.**

*Luke 1:46-55*

*The Officiant says*

Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The office may continue with the Blessing of a Home found on page xxx.*

*After the home has been blessed, or immediately after the preceding Collect, the area above the door is chalked. Traditionally, the chalking takes this form: 20+C+M+B+19 - The letters are the abbreviation for the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" - "Christ bless this house".*

*The + signs represent the cross, and 20-19 is the year.*

*The following may be said while a member of the family chalks the door.*

The Magi, **Caspar**, **Melchior**, and **Balthasar** came from the east to Bethlehem to adore the Lord. “They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to Him.” **two thousand** and **nineteen** years ago. May **+** Christ, **+** our Homes **+** Bless **+** and remain with us throughout the new year. **Amen**.