**THE BLESSING OF A HOME**

**Opening**

*All gather at the entrance to the house. The Priest begins:*

*Priest* Peace be to this house.

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

*Priest* Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

*People* **The maker of heaven and earth.**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with your spirit.**

*Priest* Let us pray.

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The door is then sprinkled with Holy Water. It is appropriate to mark the lintel of the door at this point, with a cross with chalk or a permanent pen, the numbers of the year going in each corner of the cross. This may be done (without marking the year) at the entrance to each room.*

*One or both of the following Lessons may be read. If there is no Eucharist, the Magnificat and one lesson is sufficient.*

Genesis 18:1-8

The Song of Mary *(Magnificat)*

3 John 1:1-6, 11, 13-15

John 12:1-3 *or* Matthew 6:25-33

*A homily or brief address may follow.*

*If convenient, prayers for the several rooms of the house are offered at this time.*

*The Celebrant, with members of the household (one of them carrying a lighted candle if desired), and others as convenient, move from room to room, concluding the procession in the living room.*

*If the procession does not take place here, the service continues with the Blessing of the Home. In that case, the prayers in the separate rooms are used before or after the service.*

**In an Oratory or Chapel, or at a Shrine**

*The antiphon is said:*

**Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.**

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary:

**And bless the Lord, the Lord that made heaven and earth.**

Let us pray. *Silence*

Almighty God, you pour out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver these your servants, when they draw near to you in this place, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections they may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.**

**In a Study or Library**

*The antiphon is said:*

**Teach us, O Lord, where wisdom is to be found, and show us the place of understanding.**

Seek the Lord your God, and you will find him:

**Search for him with all your heart and with all your soul.**

Let us pray. *Silence*

O infinite Creator, you are the true fountain of light and wisdom. Shed upon the darkness of our understanding the rays of your infinite brightness, and remove far from us the twofold darkness in which we were born, namely, sin and ignorance. Give those who study in this place keenness of apprehension, capacity for remembering, method and ease in learning, insight in interpretation, and copious eloquence in speech. Instruct their beginnings, direct their progress, and set your seal upon their finished work. For it is you that we seek, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

**Teach us, O Lord, where wisdom is to be found, and show us the place of understanding.**

**In a Bedroom**

*The antiphon is said:*

**Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**

I will lay me down in peace, and take my rest:

**For you, Lord, only, make me dwell in safety.**

Let us pray. *Silence*

O Almighty Father, the true rest of your people: Sanctify to your servants their hours of rest and refreshment, their sleeping and their waking; and grant that, strengthened by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit, they may rise to serve you all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**

**In a Child’s Room**

*The antiphon is said:*

**Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such as these belongs the kingdom of heaven.**

Praise the Lord, you children of the Lord.

**Praise the Name of the Lord.**

Let us pray. *Silence*

Heavenly Father, your Son our Savior took children into his arms and blessed them: Embrace the *child* who sleeps here with your never-failing love, protect *him* from all danger, and bring *him* in safety to each new day, until *he* greets with joy the great Day of your coming; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such as these belongs the kingdom of heaven.**

In a Guest Room

*The antiphon is said:*

**Do not neglect to show hospitality, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**

Open your homes to each other without a word:

**Use the gifts you have received from God for the good of others.**

Let us pray. *Silence*

Almighty Father, you have taught us to welcome one another as Christ welcomed us: Bless those who shall share the hospitality of this home; give them your Fatherly care as a shield about them; and may the wisdom of your Holy Spirit keep them in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Do not neglect to show hospitality, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**

**In a Bathroom**

*The antiphon is said:*

**You shall purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; you shall wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering:

**Having our bodies washed with pure water.**

Let us pray. *Silence*

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature: Give unto us a proper respect and reverence for our mortal bodies, keeping them clean and fair, whole and sound; that by them we may glorify you, and await with confidence that great Day when our bodies will put on immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**You shall purge me with hyssop, O Lord, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

**In a Workroom or Workshop**

*The antiphon is said:*

**Many there are who rely upon their hands and are skillful in their own work.**

Prosper, O Lord, the work of our hands:

**Prosper our handiwork.**

Let us pray. *Silence*

O God, from the family of your servant David you raised up the carpenter Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the spouse of his Virgin Mother: grant that, imitating his example, those who labor in this place may find themselves co-laborers with Christ and heirs of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Many there are who rely upon their hands and are skillful in their own work.**

**In the Kitchen**

*The antiphon is said:*

**You shall eat and be satisfied, and praise the Name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.**

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord:

**And you give them their food in due season.**

Let us pray. *Silence*

O Lord, our Shepherd, you fill the hungry with good things; grant that this kitchen may be a place of abundance and peace. Give your grace to all who work here, that in serving others they may serve you, and that in the noise and clutter of the kitchen they may possess you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**You shall eat and be satisfied, and praise the Name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.**

**In a Dining Room or Area**

*The antiphon is said:*

**The living God gives you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.**

He brings forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden our hearts:

**Oil to make a cheerful countenance, and bread to strengthen the heart.**

Let us pray. *Silence*

Blessed are you, O Lord God, King of the universe, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives. Fill our hearts with joy and gladness, that we may abound in every good work, and at the last be counted worthy to sit down at your table in your kingdom; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

**The living God gives you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.**

**In a Terrace or Garden**

*The antiphon is said:*

**As the earth puts forth its blossom, or bushes in a garden burst into flower, so shall the Lord God make righteousness and praise blossom before all the nations.**

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land:

**Indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

Let us pray. *Silence*

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Companion on the Way, who in this earthly life withdrew to a quiet place in order to hear the voice of the Father; be present with your servants in this place, to which they come for prayer and quiet; and make it, we pray, a place of serenity and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**As the earth puts forth its blossom, or bushes in a garden burst into flower, so shall the Lord God make righteousness and praise blossom before all the nations.**

**In the Living Room**

*The antiphon is said:*

**Behold, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity!**

Above everything, love one another earnestly:

**For love covers a multitude of sins.**

Let us pray. *Silence*

Give your blessing, O Lord God, to all who share this room, that they may be knit together in fellowship here on earth, and joined with the communion of your saints in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Behold, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity!**

**The Blessing**

*When the procession has returned to the living room, the Priest completes the blessing of the home as follows:*

*The antiphon is said:*

**The effect of righteousness will be peace,**

**the result of righteousness is tranquility and trust for ever.**

**My people shall abide in secure dwellings**

**and in quiet resting places.**

Unless the Lord builds the house:

**Those who build it labor in vain.**

Let us pray. *Silence*

Graciously hear us, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and grant that your holy angel from heaven may guard, cherish, protect, and visit, and ever defend all who are assembled in this place: through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The effect of righteousness will be peace,**

**the result of righteousness is tranquility and trust for ever.**

**My people shall abide in secure dwellings**

**and in quiet resting places.**

*The Priest then blesses the people.*

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**