

A House Blessing

Ahead of time, prepare a table inside for the sharing of the Sacrament of Holy Communion if you'd like. You may also like to have persons volunteer to read the various scriptures that will be read during the house blessing. Ask for volunteers ahead of time and give them either a bible with the verses bookmarked, or print out a copy of the scripture for them.

The Pastor, members of the household, and friends gather at the front door of the home. The Pastor greets the people and the service may begin with the following or some other appropriate words.

GATHERING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Lord, take up residency here in this place, upon this land, within this home, and in each of our lives. May Your great love rest upon this place and may Your promised Presence be manifested in it. - **Amen**

READINGS

One or all of the following lessons, or other appropriate readings, may follow. And remember, you may want family members and/or friends to share in the readings.

PRAYING A HEDGE OF PROTECTION

At this time, the pastor will lead those gathered to walk the perimeter of the property pausing in each of the four corners. And after a brief pastoral prayer, the pastor will invite everyone to pray in unison together the Lord's Prayer before moving to the next corner of the property. At the conclusion, return to the front door of the home.



Pastor

Merciful Lord, all Powerful Messiah, Holy Spirit, we gather here in the corner of this property asking for Divine protection from all that is evil. We pray a hedge of protection upon this land. Cover this place with the blood of the lamb of Jesus. Lord God, surround this land on every side and border, and fill this dwelling place with armies of Your angels to shield and deliver us from the evil one. Anoint this place with a generous outpouring of Your great love. For we worship You, and You alone, our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And now with the confidence of your children, we now pray together,

ALL 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.
Now and forever.
- Amen**

Continue to each corner of the property, repeating the prayers above.

And then return to the front door of the home.



AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE HOME

INVOCATION

When appropriate, the Pastor then says the following invocation

May the Almighty Power of our Triune God be present in this place to banish from it every unclean spirit, to cleanse it from every residue of evil, and to make it a safe and secure place for *all those* who dwell in it; in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

- *Amen.*

PLACEMENT OF THE CROSS

At this time, the Pastor or a family member may hang a cross above the front door on the inside and/ or outside of the home reading the following scripture(s) aloud.

Joshua 24:14-15 “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Matthew 7:24-27

24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. **26** But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. **27** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Pastor:

May this cross serve as a reminder to all who come and go, that this home is a place filled with the love and protection of Christ Our Lord. Let Us Pray.

Loving God, we humbly ask Your blessing upon this home. Fill the _____ Family with love, joy, courage, and hope. Protect their going out and their coming in. Help them to be the Good News to all who enter. Awaken in each of us Your Holy Spirit, knowing that through You all things can be accomplished: the tasks of the day, and the huge hurdles of burdens and sorrow of life. Help all of us to find ways to open the doors of our hearts to our families, our friends, and to those who need us, for You, O Lord, are our shelter and refuge, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. - *Amen.*



Prayers throughout the home may be offered at this time. The Pastor, with members of the household (one of them carrying a lighted candle if desired), and others as convenient, move from room to room, concluding in the living room or kitchen. Meanwhile, those not able may remain in the living room or kitchen, praying silently, singing hymns, or playing Christian music. The following prayers may be prayed in no specific order.

In a STUDY or Library

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. - **James 1:5**

2 My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands. 2 Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. 3 Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. 4 Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. 5 Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord, and you will gain knowledge of God. 6 For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity. 8 He guards the paths of the just and protects those who are faithful to him.

- Proverbs 2:1-8

Pastor: Let Us Pray. *(Silence)*

Teach us, O Lord, where wisdom is to be found, and show us the place of understanding. O God of truth, we pray Your blessing upon this space and all those who enter it. May this place be a place of study, learning and growing, contemplation, and prayer. May all that is read and heard here in this place be filtered through a biblical world view. Grant Your wisdom upon those who enter here. Show yourself to us in powerful ways. Remove our ignorance, and reveal yourself in tangible and applicable ways. For we seek You Our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. - **Amen.**



In a BEDROOM

Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. - **Matthew 11:28**

1 It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, 2 proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, 3 to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp. - **Psalms 92:1-3**

Pastor: Let Us Pray. (*Silence*)

O Lord, relieve our scattered senses after a long day. Guard us in our sleeping. And may we arise to praise You and to serve You, knowing your mercy and goodness is new every morning, through Jesus Christ our Lord. - **Amen.**

In a CHILD’S Room

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” - **Matthew 19:14**

Pastor: Let Us Pray. (*Silence*)

Heavenly Father, we ask for your blessing upon this room, and upon the children who live here. Envelope our children with Your unfailing love, protect them from all danger, harm, and illness. And grant them never ending joy, safety, laughter, and rest each day. Bless our children we pray, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. - **Amen**



In a GUEST Room

1 Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. **2** Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. - **Hebrews 13:1-2**

9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. **10** Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. **11** Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. **12** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. **13** Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. - **Romans 12:9-13**

Pastor: Let Us Pray. *(Silence)*

Loving God, you have taught us to welcome one another as Christ welcomed us. May this home be a place of radical hospitality. Bless all those whom may visit and share in the respite of this home. May Your Fatherly care envelope them, the Love of Your Son Jesus protect them, and the guidance of your Holy Spirit lead them closer to You Lord Jesus Christ. - **Amen.**

In a Workroom or WORKSHOP

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands. - **Psalms 90:17**

Pastor: Let Us Pray. *(Silence)*

O God, we are reminded that Your Son, Jesus worked with His own hands as a carpenter long ago. And we know that you bless the work of the hands of Your disciples. So we ask that You O God, would be ever present with those who work here in this place. Protect them from injury, grant them perseverance and courage to work hard, and instill in them the joy of creativity, knowing that You have created all things. Establish the work of their hands in this place, and empower each of us to share in the work of Your Holy Spirit wherever You may send us, to be co-laborers with You, for Your sake and glory. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. - **Amen.**



In a BATHROOM

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. - **Psalm 51:1-12**

Pastor: Let Us Pray. *(Silence)*

O Holy Lord, for you have wonderfully made us in Your image, from the top of our head to the bottom of our feed. May we be reminded that our body is a temple of Your Holy Spirit. By Your Spirit at work in us, may we show reverence and care for our mortal bodies. Keep us spiritually clean and morally straight all the days of our lives, that we may live holy and upright lives awaiting that glorious day when we shall be clothed in glory in Your Kingdom. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
- *Amen*

In the KITCHEN

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" 41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." - **Luke 10:38-42**



Pastor: Let Us Pray. *(Silence)*

Caring and Providing Lord, You supply our every need according to Your kindness, and generosity. Continue to meet our needs, granting us each day our daily bread. Bless those who prepare and serve countless meals in this place. And may we never be too busy to give You thanks for the ways in which You abundantly bless us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. - ***Amen***

In a DINING ROOM or Area

7 When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: **8** “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. **9** If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. **10** But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. **11** For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

12 Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. **13** But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, **14** and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Pastor: Let Us Pray. *(Silence)*

All powerful and sustaining God, for You provide rain to fill the earth, enabling wheat, and fruit, and vegetable to grow. And through the work of many hands, You bring food to our table, and drink to our lips. Bless the fellowship of those gathered around this table, and by Your Spirit, join us here. May we always be grateful for our daily bread, and mindful of the hungry and poor in our community. And with thanksgiving in our hearts, may we cherish the gift of our salvation. For You supply our every need according to Your great riches and we thank You. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. - ***Amen***.



In the LIVING Room or FAMILY Room

Pastor: Let Us Pray. *(Silence)*

Loving God, for You sent Your Son Jesus to be raised by a loving earthly family. And we trust and believe that where two or more are gathered, there You are with them. So, we humbly pray, O Lord, that as our family and others gather here in this space, that you would bless our fellowship. Pour out your love upon those who gather here, and remind us always to be a forgiving people as You have so lovingly forgiven each of us. Lead us into Holy conversations of praise and thanksgiving. And grant us rest, and joy with one another as one family in Christ. We pray in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. - *Amen*

THE BLESSING OF THE HOME

When the procession has returned to the living room, or immediately after the homily (and invocation), the Celebrant completes the blessing of the home as follows:

1 John 4:9-19

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **10** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **11** Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. **13** This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. **14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **15** If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. **16** And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. **17** This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. **18** There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. **19** We love because he first loved us.



Pastor: Let Us Pray. *(Silence)*

Holy Spirit, take up residency in this home, and in the hearts of all those who dwell here. Bless those who come and go with the gift of Your great love, and grant that we may manifest Your love to one another. May we grow in grace, and in comfort, and in strength, with You as our guide, our shelter, and our peace, now and forever.
- ***Amen***

Pastor: *with hands raised.*

And now, may the peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ be upon this home, and upon the _____ family. And may the peace of Christ be with each of you always.

And also with you.

You may now share with one another signs of Christ's peace.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The service of Holy Communion may be entered here according to your denominational book of worship. If there is not to be a Communion, the service concludes with the Lord's Prayer.



CONCLUDE WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER - ALL 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.
Now and forever.
- Amen**

