

Service of Thanksgiving

INTRODUCTION

We are here today to give thanks for these children, with their family and friends, and to support their parents in their responsibilities with prayer and love. God became one of us in Jesus, and understands all that surrounds the arrival and upbringing of children. It is God's purpose that children should know love within the stability of their home, grow in faith, and come at last to the eternal city where his love reigns supreme.

PSALM VERSES

I will give you thanks O Lord with my whole heart,
I will tell of all the wonders you have done.
I will rejoice and be glad in you,
I will make my songs to your name O Most High. 9: 1,2

For you Lord are my hope,
you are my confidence, O Lord, from my youth upward.
On you have I leaned since my birth,
you are he that brought me out of my mother's womb and my praise is of you continually. 71: 5,6

THANKSGIVING

The minister says

Do you receive these children as a gift from God?

We do.

Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek his blessing?

We do.

The minister says

God our creator,

we thank you for the wonder of new life

and for the mystery of human love.

We thank you for all whose support and skill surround and sustain the beginning of life.

We thank you that we are known to you by name

and loved by you from all eternity.

We thank you for Jesus Christ,

who has opened to us the way of love.

We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The minister may say for each child

What name have you given this child?

A parent or supporting friend replies

His/her name is N.

The minister may take the child.

The minister says

As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them, so now we ask God's blessing on N.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for his/her birth;

surround *him/her* with your blessing

that *he/she* may know your love,

be protected from evil,

and know your goodness all *his/her* days.

When all the children have been prayed for

**All May they learn to love all that is true,
grow in wisdom and strength
and, in due time, come through faith and baptism
to the fullness of your grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Giving of the Gospel ↑

A copy of a Gospel is presented, with these words

Receive this book.
It is the good news of God's love.
Take it as your guide.

The minister may address the supporting friends and say

Will you do all that you can to help and support *N* and *N* in the bringing up of *N*?
With the help of God, we will.

The minister may address the wider family and friends and say

Will you do all that you can to help and support this *family*?
With the help of God, we will.

PRAYERS

Minister Let us pray.
Heavenly Father,
your blessed Son shared the life of an earthly home at Nazareth.
Bless the home of this family,
and help all the members of it to live together in your love.
Teach them to serve you and each other,
and make them always ready to show your love to those in need;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May God the Father of all bless *these parents*
and give *them* grace to love and care for *their children*.
May God give *them* wisdom, patience and faith, help *them* to provide for the *children's needs* and, by
their example,
reveal the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ.
All Amen.

God our Father,
we pray for all who have the care of this child.
Guide them by your Holy Spirit,
that they may bring *him* up in the ways of truth and love.
Through their care enable *him/her* to grow in grace
and become daily more like your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

This prayer may be said by the parents or by the whole congregation

All God our creator,
we thank you for the gift of these *children*,
entrusted to our care.
May we be patient and understanding,
ready to guide and to forgive,
so that through our love
they may come to know your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Ending ↑

The minister says one of these or another suitable blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus
draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All Amen.