

A Home Blessing for the home-bound

This is an adaption of the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Home Blessing. As you prepare for an extended time in your home, you are invited to make your home and hearts ready for all of the sacred and ordinary activities that happen there: life, love, food, play AND worship. You may want to gather some chalk, a candle, and some water. You may want to plan this before or after the family meal. The pattern is movement to a part of your house, a short bible verse, and short prayer for that place. You may want to sing together as you walk. Since we will be worshipping in our home for multiple (unknown) weeks, you may find it meaningful to set up a special place with candles, Bible, musical instruments or even computer/television to access YouTube!

Gathering at the Threshold

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
Who spreads forth the heavens like a tent,
Who shelters our lives,
Who comes to make a home with us.

Amen.

Peace to this home and to all who enter here.

Kindred in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and we seek God' blessing as we gather in this place and pray for our time together in this place.

A candle is lighted and presented to a family member.

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Crossing the Threshold

A reading from the Psalms: The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore. (*Psalms 121:8*)

Mark the threshold with "20 C+M+B 20" in chalk over the door as a reminder of Christ's blessings over this place.

Let us pray. O God, watch over _____ *name all members of the family* _____ in all of their life of sleeping, waking, working, and playing; keep all evil away from their door. Let this threshold be a place of welcome to all, and we pray that all who enter here will know your love and peace. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Nourishment and Learning

The assembly is led in song as they move to the dining room and kitchen of the home.

A reading from the Psalms: The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season. You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (*Psalms 145:15-16*)

Let us pray. O God, you fill the hungry with good things. Let this table be a place of hospitality, mercy, and learning. Send grace and humor in the spilt milk. Send your blessings on the farmers who grow the food for this table, for those who prepare the food for this table and make us all ever thankful for daily bread. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Learning & Work

A reading from Proverbs: To get wisdom is to love oneself; to keep understanding is to prosper.
(Proverbs 19:8)

Let us pray.

O God, you are the teacher who leads us to all truth. Grant that those who learn in this place may use knowledge to heal and help your world. Draw us together through our technology for every good purpose. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Life Together

The assembly is led in song as they move to the Living Room.

A reading from Ecclesiastes: So I commend enjoyment, for there is nothing better for people under the sun than to eat, and drink, and enjoy themselves, for this will go with them in their toil through the days of life that God gives them under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 8:15)

Let us pray.

O God, bless all who visit this home; may they find here warmth and peace. Bless also name/s, who welcome others into *their* home, as you blessed Sarah and Abraham when they entertained angels unawares. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Washing and Tending

The assembly is led in song as they fill the hallway outside of the bathroom...and yes, you can laugh at the levity.

A reading from the Psalms: You yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well. (Psalm 139:13-14)

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. When we encounter your washing waters, remind us of our baptism and our connection with your whole creation in this infinite water. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Caring for Creation

The assembly moves to the garden or place of plants and animals.

A reading from Job: Ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In God's hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being. (Job 12:7-10)

Let us pray. O God, we thank you for the sustaining gift of creation a part of the _____ family (to be their companion and friend.) We thank you for the green plants that make the oxygen we breath and, indeed, for all the animals that breath it with us. Sustain us all together in this place by your Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Rest, Re-creation and Play

The assembly moves in song to the bedrooms.

For Children:

A reading from 1 Samuel: Samuel's mother, Hannah used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. (*1 Samuel 2:19*)

Let us pray. O God, you have clothed your children in garments of dazzling white. As Hannah's little Samuel grew out of his robes each year, help this family welcome the growth and change that comes from your abundant gift of life. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

or

A reading from the Psalms I will dwell in your house forever, O God; I will take refuge under the cover of your wings. (*Psalm 61:4*)

Let us pray.

O God, hold name in your unfailing love. May *they/s/he* dream peacefully and grow in health and strength. Bring *them/her/him* in safety to each new day. In Jesus' name we pray.

For Older Youth:

A reading from the Psalms: It is in vain to rise so early and go to bed so late. You, LORD, give sleep to your beloved. (*Psalm 127:2*)

Let us pray.

O God, may name find here rest and respite, privacy and connection, challenge and enjoyment. And in all these things, may *she/he* hear you calling *her/him* by name. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

For Parents:

A reading from Psalms: In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure. (*Psalm 4:8*)

Let us pray. O God, bless name the parents of the children in their waking and in their sleeping, and let them find in one another comfort, respect, and delight. O God, bless the friends and family who find a place of hospitality and rest in the guest room. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

For Adults in Companionship:

A reading from Colossians: Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. (*Colossians 3:14-15*)

Let us pray.

O God, let your love be a seal upon the hearts of name and name, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their companionship and in their rest, in their sleeping and in their waking. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

For All:

A reading from the Psalms: The LORD watches over you; God will not fall asleep. (Psalm 121: 5, 3)

Let us pray. O God, hold your children in your unfailing love. May *they/s/he* dream peacefully and grow in health and strength. Bring them in safety to each new day. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Staying and Sending: Affirmation of Vocation

Jesus said, "Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise householder who built a house on rock."

Leader addresses the family of the house.

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit your servants together into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon *them/ name* in *their* commitment to serve in Christ's name.

Give *them* courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Water may be sprinkled on the people in the thanksgiving for the gift of baptism.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed by your name, your kingdom come,
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

Dwell here in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

Adapted from home-use by the Rev. Sharolyn Browning with Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas. The original source of blessing is the Pastoral Care book of the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, published by Augsburg Fortress © 2006.