

A Rite
for the
Blessing of Homes



Rite II Version

(The Presider, any assisting ministers, members of the household and friends assemble in the sala of the home.)

Opening Collect

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with your spirit.*

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, grant to this home the grace of Your presence, that You may be known to be the inhabitant of this dwelling, and the defender of this household; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who with You and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, forever and ever.

All: *Amen.*

First Proclamation Genesis 18: 1 - 8

Proclaimer: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 112

Proclaimer: Praise the Lord! How blessed is the man who fears the Lord,

People: *Who greatly delights in His commandments.*

Proclaimer: His descendants will be mighty on earth;

People: *The generation of the upright will be blessed.*

Proclaimer: Wealth and riches are in his house,

People: *And his righteousness endures forever.*

Proclaimer: Light arises in the darkness for the upright;

People: *He is gracious and compassionate and righteous.*

Proclaimer: It is well with the man who is gracious and lends;

People: *He will maintain his cause in judgment.*

Proclaimer: For he will never be shaken;

People: *The righteous will be remembered forever.*

Proclaimer: He will not fear evil tidings;

People: His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

Proclaimer: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

People: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Gospel Proclamation Matthew 6: 25 - 33

Proclaimer: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Reflection

Invocation

Presider: Let the mighty power of the Holy 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 secure habitation for those who dwell in it; in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Processional through the House

(Prayers for all rooms of the house are offered at this time. The Presider, with members of the household and others as convenient, move from room to room and outside as necessary, concluding the procession in the living room. Candles may be carried if desired.)

At the Entrance

Presider: Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come into the house, and eat with you, and you with Me.

Proclaimer: The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

People: From this time forth and forever.

Presider: Let us pray.
Sovereign Lord, You are Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end: Send Your servants out from this place on many errands, be their constant companion in the way, and welcome them upon their return, so that coming and going they may be sustained by Your presence, O Christ our Lord.
Amen.

In a Helper's Quarters

Presider: Behold, my servant, whom I uphold; my chosen one in whom my soul delights.

Proclaimer: The servant who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you:

People: And you shall love him as yourself: I am the Lord your God.

Presider: Let us pray.
Lord Christ, You said that the greatest among us would be our servant, and the first among us our slave: Grant that those who repose here would find rest and peace in their hearts and bodies, knowing that they are under our covering and Yours; in Your Name we ask. *Amen.*

In A Bedroom

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

Proclaimer: I lie down and go to sleep:

People: I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.

Presider: Let us pray.
O God of life and love, 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 the Holy Spirit, they may rise to serve You all the days of their life; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In a Child's Room

Presider: Jesus said, Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them; for to those like them belong the Kingdom of Heaven.

Proclaimer: Praise the Lord, you children of the Lord:

People: Praise the Name of the Lord.

Presider: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, Your Son our Savior took young children into His arms and blessed them: Embrace the children whose room this is with unfailing love, protect them from all danger, and bring them in safety to each new day, until they greet with joy the great day of Your Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In a Guest Room

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

Proclaimer: Open your homes to each other without complaining:

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

Presider: Let us pray.

Loving God, You have taught us to welcome one another as Christ welcomed us: Bless those who from time to time share the hospitality of this home. May Your fatherly care shield them, the love of Thy dear Son preserve them from all evil, and the guidance of Your Holy Spirit keep them in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In a Comfort Room

Presider: I will sprinkle you with clean water, and you will be cleansed.

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

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

Presider: Let us pray.

O Holy God, in the Incarnation of Your Son our Lord You made our flesh the instrument of Your self-revelation: Give us a proper respect and reverence for our mortal bodies, keeping them clean and fair, whole and sound; that, glorifying You in them, we may confidently await our being clothed upon with spiritual bodies, when that which is mortal is transformed by life; through Jesus Christ our Lord *Amen.*

In a Prayer Room or at a Shrine

Presider: Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.

Proclaimer: Lift up your hands in the holy place:

People: *And bless the Lord.*

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, from You comes every good prayer, and You pour out on those who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication: Deliver 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 truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In a Terrace or Garden

Presider: 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 nations.

Proclaimer: My boundaries enclose a pleasant land:

People: Indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

Presider: Let us pray.

Jesus, our good companion, on many occasions You withdrew with Your friends for quiet and refreshment: Be present with Your servants in this place, to which they come for fellowship and recreation; and make of it, we pray, a place of serenity and peace; In Your Name we ask it. *Amen.*

In a Workroom or Workshop

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

Proclaimer: Prosper, O Lord, the work of our hands:

People: Prosper our handiwork.

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, Your blessed Son worked with His hands in the carpenter shop in Nazareth: Be present, we pray, with those who work in this place, that, laboring as workers together with You, they may share the joy of Your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In a Garage

Presider: And Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel.

Proclaimer: Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country:

People: Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

Presider: Let us pray.

Merciful Lord, You send Your angels before us, to guard us in all our ways: Bless the means of transportation to be housed here with proper function and length of days; and smooth the highways before us as we go forth safely in Your Name, and for Your sake. *Amen.*

At a Bodega

Presider: And David blessed the people in the Name of the Lord, and he distributed to everyone in Israel a loaf of bread and a portion of meat and a raisin cake.

Proclaimer: The Lord will open for you His good storehouse:

People: And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

Presider: Let us pray.

Jehovah Jireh, our Provider, You have taught us to put aside and save week by week, that we may be ever ready to cheerfully give to Your cause: Supply us seed for our sowing in righteousness, that we may ever have an abundant supply for those in want; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

At the Dirty Kitchen

Presider: Take for yourself some of all food which is edible, and gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.

Proclaimer: Bring the fatted calf, and prepare it:

People: Let us eat and be merry.

Presider: Let us pray.
Almighty God, You have declared all foods clean when they are received with thanksgiving, being sanctified by Your Word and prayer: Prepare a table before us, we pray, that we may be satisfied with the finest of the wheat, and be strengthened to do Your will; in the Name of Your Son we ask. ***Amen.***

In the Main Kitchen

Presider: You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the Name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you.

Proclaimer: The eyes of all wait upon You, O Lord:
People: And You give them their food in due season.

Presider: Let us pray.
O Lord our God, You supply every need of ours according to Your great riches: Bless the hands that work in this place, and give us grateful hearts for our daily bread; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

In a Dining Room or Area

Presider: The living God gave you from Heaven rain and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.

Proclaimer: He brings forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden our hearts:
People: Oil to make a cheerful countenance, and bread to strengthen the heart.

Presider: Let us pray.
Blessed are You, O Lord, King of the universe, for You give us food and drink to sustain our lives: Make us grateful for all Your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

In a Study or Library

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

Proclaimer: Seek the Lord your God and you will find Him:
People: *Search for Him with all your heart and all your soul.*

Presider: Let us pray.
O God of truth, eternal ground of all that is,
beyond space and time yet within them,
transcending all things yet pervading them: Show
Yourself to us, for we go about in ignorance;
reveal Yourself to us, for it is You that we seek, O
Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

In the Living Room or Family Room

Presider: Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when God's people
live together in unity!

Proclaimer: Above everything, love one another earnestly:
People: *For love covers many sins.*

Presider: Let us pray.
Give Your blessing, Lord, 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.**

Blessing of the Home

Presider: The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the
result of righteous tranquility and trust forever. My
people will abide in secure dwellings and in quiet
resting places.

Proclaimer: Unless the Lord builds the house:
People: *Their labor is in vain who build it.*

Presider: Let us pray.
Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of Your presence. Bless all who live here with the gift of Your love; and grant that they may manifest Your love to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace, and in the knowledge and love of You; guide, comfort, and strengthen them; and preserve them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Presider: Let us pray.

All: 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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Presider: The Almighty God, Who through the Incarnation has made His dwelling place to be with men, live in your hearts by faith; and the blessing of God Almighty: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

(An Agape Meal follows immediately in the home, beginning with:)

Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Presider: Greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

