

Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

We are here today to give thanks for *this child*, with her family and friends, and to support *N&N (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.

The minister says

Do you receive *N* 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 says

What name have you given this child?

A parent 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.

***All* May s/he 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.**

The minister prays for the parents

Father in heaven, bless these parents,
that they may cherish their *child*;
make them wise and understanding,
to help *him/her* as *he/she* grows,
and surround this family
with the light of your truth
and the warmth of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The minister may address the supporting friends and family 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.

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

**God our creator,
we thank you for the gift of *this child* ,
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.**