

Thanksgiving for a Gift of a Child

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.



Thanksgiving and Blessing

Where parents wish to recognize the role of supporting friends it may be appropriate for them to stand with the parents at the thanksgiving.

The minister says

Do you receive your child as a gift from God?
We do.

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

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.
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...

The minister may take the child and say

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



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.

May ... 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.

Prayers for the parents & families

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



Giving of the Gospel

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

The minister may address the congregation

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

Prayers

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.