

## A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF A CHILD

### Welcome

### Introduction

We are here today to give thanks for *N*, and to support *N* and *N* 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 works of the Lord are great:

**All his mercy endures for ever.**

Mary gave birth to a child and called him Jesus:

**All he will save his people from their sins.**

He will be called the Prince of Peace:

**All his kingdom will last for ever.**

Loving God, you hold all things in life and call us into your kingdom of peace; help us to walk the path of your truth and fill our lives with gratitude and faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

### Bible Reading

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### 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. One of them may present the child to the minister, and informal words may be said.*

'I speak on behalf of *(names other supporting friends here)*. It is a great privilege to be able to support *N* and *N* today, to stand with them in friendship, and to be able to present to you *N* to receive God's blessing'

*Then the minister says*

Do you receive *N* as a gift from God?

**All We do.**

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

**All 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.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

What name have you given this child?

*A parent or supporting friend replies*

His/her name is N.

*The minister takes N and says*

As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them, so now we ask God to bless N.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for N's 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 N 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.**

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

**All Amen.**

*The minister may address the supporting friends*

Will you do all that you can to help and support N and N in the bringing up of N?

*They reply*

**With the help of God, we will.**

*The minister may address the wider family and friends*

Will you do all that you can to help and support this family?

**All With the help of God, we will.**

### **Prayers**

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

*For N*

God our Father, we pray for *N* that in due time he/she may be received by baptism into the family of your Church, and become an inheritor of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*For N and N*

Father in heaven, bless *N* and *N*, that they may cherish *N*; 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.**

*For the grandparents and other relatives*

Father God, from whom every family in earth and heaven is named, we thank you for the rich variety of the families you have created for us, and for the relationships, which we see and enjoy within them. Help us to respect and learn from each other, that we may come to maturity in Christ Jesus our Lord

**All Amen.**

*Those who wish to may come forward and light a candle for N, as a symbol of prayer and love.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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,  
the power and the glory, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **Ending**

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.**