

Thanksgiving for the  
Gift of a Child

## **Introduction**

*The minister says*

In the name of Jesus who was born to be our Saviour, Christ the Lord, we welcome you.  
Grace, mercy and peace be with you.

## **And also with you**

We are here today to give thanks for ..... with his/her family and friends, and to support his/her 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 works of the Lord are great:

**his mercy endures for ever.**

Mary gave birth to a child and called him Jesus:

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

He will be called the Prince of Peace:

**his kingdom will last for ever.**

*The minister says*

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.

**Amen**

## ***Bible Reading***

***Talk***

## ***Thanksgiving and Blessing***

*Where parents wish to recognise 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 children to the minister, and informal words may be said.*

*The minister says*

Do you receive this child 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.

**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. The minister says*

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 days.

*We pray together*

**May he/she learn to love all that is true, grow in wisdom, and strength and, in due time, come through faith in Jesus to the fullness of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The minister prays for the parents*

May God the Father of all bless (parents.....) and give them grace to love and care for ..... May God give them wisdom, patience and faith, help them to provide for his/her needs and, by their example, reveal the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ. Amen

***Giving of the Gospel***

*A copy of a Gospel is presented, with these words*

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

*The minister may address those supporting and say*

Will you do all that you can to help support (parents ..... ) in the bringing up of .....?

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

*The minister may address the wider family and friends and say*

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

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

### **Prayers**

*This prayer may be said 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**

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and so we have the courage to say

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be 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.**

**Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

### **Ending**

*The minister says one of these or another suitable blessing*

The Lord bless you and watch over you,

the Lord make his face shine upon you

and be gracious to you,

the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace;

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**