



Thanksgiving **S**ervice

Welcome to this Thanksgiving Service

The birth or adoption of a child is a cause for celebration. Many people are overcome by a sense of awe at the creation of new life and want to express their thanks to God. This service provides an opportunity for parents and families to give thanks for the birth or adoption of a child and to pray for family life.



This service is not the same as Baptism (sometimes called Christening), which is the sacrament of initiation into membership of the Church, the Body of Christ. It can be a valuable alternative for Baptism for families who feel uncomfortable with making the Baptism promises and commitments, but who still desire to give thanks to God for the gift of a child.

So we hope that you enjoy this service, celebrating the gift of children.

We Gather

Welcome and notices

Opening Hymn/Song

The Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all
and also with you.



Praise

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.

We get sorted before God

Confession

**Almighty God,
long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you,
I confess with my whole heart
my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others,
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;
and raise me to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**



The minister says

May the God of love and power
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit,
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We Hear God's Word

Bible Readings

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Songs of Worship



We give thanks for the Children

The Thanksgiving party(ies) move to the front of the church

Do you receive *these children* 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 says for each child

What name have you given this child?

A parent or supporting friend replies

His/her name is:

The minister takes the child and 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.

When all the children have been prayed for

May *they* 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

May God the Father of all bless *these parents*
and give *them* grace to love and care for *their children*.
May God give *them* wisdom, patience and faith,
help *them* to provide for the *children's* needs

and, by *their* example,
reveal the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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

**God our creator,
we thank you for the gift of *these children*,
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.**

The 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 addresses the supporting friends 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.

The minister addresses 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

The Thanksgiving party(ies) return to their seats

Welcome Song



We affirm our Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

We Pray

Prayer for the family and other needs are made

**Jesus taught us to call God our Father,
and so in faith and trust we say**

**All 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.**

We Prepare to Leave

Before you go...

The Blessing

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and *may* the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ
Thanks be to God

Closing Hymn/Song



We hope that you have enjoyed this Thanksgiving Service and we look forward to seeing you again in the future. Please return this booklet at the end of the service so that it can be used again. Thank you.