

Day by day we magnify thee;  
And we worship thy Name  
ever world without end.  
Vouchsafe, O Lord  
to keep us this day without sin.  
O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
have mercy upon us.  
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us  
as our trust is in thee.  
O Lord, in thee have I trusted,  
let me never be confounded.

## CONCLUDING PRAYERS

When the priest has returned to the living room, he invites the people to join in the Lord's Prayer:

**Priest:** Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us.

**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.

**Then may be said:** Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**All:** Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

**Priest:** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit come down upon you, and remain with you always.  
**All:** Amen.

## ALTERNATIVE GOSPEL READINGS

### Mark 1:29-31

Jesus left the synagogue, and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever, and immediately they told him of her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her; and she served them.

### Luke 10:38-42

As they went on their way, Jesus entered a village; and a woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her."

### Luke 24:28-32

They drew near to the village to which they were going. Jesus appeared to be going further, but they constrained him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?"

# The Blessing of a House

## INTRODUCTION

**Priest:** Peace be with this house and with all who live here.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** [My brothers and sisters,] when our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word, became flesh through the Blessed Virgin Mary, he made his home with us. May he always be here with you to share in your joys, and comfort you in your sorrows. Inspired by his teachings and example, may you seek to make this home before all else a dwelling place of love, diffusing far and wide the goodness of God.

Let us pray.

God our Father, we thank you for making us your people and for gathering us together in the home of **N** (and **N**). As we hear your Word and open our hearts to your Spirit, may we grow in love for you and for one another. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the same Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD THE FIRST READING

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each

other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM 91

**R.** O Lord, thou art my hope  
and my stronghold.

Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say unto the Lord: Thou art my hope and my stronghold: my God, in him will I trust. **R.**

For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under his feathers. **R.**

His faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler: thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night. Nor for the arrow that flieth by day, for the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noonday. **R.**

He shall give his Angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee in their hands: that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone. **R.**

#### **GOSPEL READING** Luke 19:1-9

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And with your spirit.**

**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**People:** **Glory to you, Lord.**

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."

And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold."

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house."

**Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### **HOMILY**

### **INTERCESSIONS**

These may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.

**The priest says:** The Son of God, Lord of heaven and earth, made his home among us. With thankfulness let us call upon him.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus Christ, by whose presence with Mary and Joseph the life of the home is sanctified; we ask you to dwell in this home, that *those/he/she* who *live(s)* here may have you as *their/his/her* guest and honour you as *their/his/her* Head.

Lord, hear us:

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Lord, in whom every dwelling grows into a holy temple; grant that *those/he/she* who *live(s)* in this home may be built up [*together*] into the dwelling place of God in the Holy Spirit.

Lord, hear us:

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Lord, who taught us to build our houses upon solid rock; grant that *those/he/she* who *live(s)* here may hold fast to your teachings and, free of all discord, serve you with *their/his/her* whole heart.

Lord, hear us:

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Lord, as you had no place to lay your head, but in uncomplaining poverty accepted the hospitality of your friends, so we pray for the homeless; through our support and the support of the whole community, may they obtain the housing they need.

Lord, hear us:

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Priest:** God our Father, who called us into the risen life of Jesus your Son, we ask you to accept these prayers we offer in his name, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

### **PRAYER OF EXORCISM**

(when required)

God our Father, we ask you to send the Spirit of your crucified Son, Jesus Christ, to beat down quickly all evil in this place. Deliver it from all wicked spirits, fantasies or imaginations. May they harm nobody but depart for ever to the place you have appointed for them through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. God our Father, cause your peace to dwell within this place, bringing peace to all who live here.

### **PRAYER OF BLESSING**

**Priest:** Lord Jesus Christ, dwelling among us, full of grace and truth, whose glory we have seen, and from whose fulness we have received: May your blessing descend upon this house and upon those who live in it. Be their shelter when they are at home, their companion when they are away, their welcome guest when they return. And at last receive them into the dwelling place you have prepared for them in your Father's house, where you live and reign with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

**Priest:** Heavenly Father, grant that your holy Angels may dwell within the walls of this house, to guard it and those who live here. Through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

The priest and his minister(s) together with the occupant(s) of the home go from room to room as the priest sprinkles holy water in the form of a cross, and, if desired, incenses the home. Meanwhile, the people say (or sing) the Te Deum Laudamus or another hymn:

We praise thee, O God;  
we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.  
All the earth doth worship thee,  
the Father everlasting.  
To thee all Angels cry aloud;  
the Heavens,  
and all the Powers therein.  
To thee Cherubim and Seraphim  
continually do cry,  
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full  
of the Majesty of thy glory.  
The glorious company of the Apostles  
praise thee.  
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets  
praise thee.  
The noble army of Martyrs praise thee.  
The holy Church throughout all the  
world doth acknowledge thee  
The Father of an infinite Majesty;  
Thine honourable, true and only Son;  
Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.  
Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ.  
Thou art the everlasting Son  
of the Father.  
When thou tookest upon thee  
to deliver man,  
thou didst not abhor  
the Virgin's womb.  
When thou hadst overcome  
the sharpness of death,  
thou didst open the Kingdom of  
Heaven to all believers.  
Thou sittest at the right hand of God  
in the glory of the Father.  
We believe that thou shalt come  
to be our Judge.  
We therefore pray thee,  
help thy servants,  
whom thou hast redeemed  
with thy precious blood.  
Make them to be numbered  
with thy Saints,  
in glory everlasting.  
O Lord, save thy people,  
and bless thine heritage.  
Govern them and lift them up for ever.