

# THANKSGIVING AFTER THE BIRTH OF A CHILD

## THANKSGIVING AFTER ADOPTION

*Thanksgiving after the Birth of a Child is giving thanks for the safety of the mother in giving birth to the child and for the life of the new-born baby. It is most appropriate to have the service in the hospital or at home soon after the birth. It is not in any way a substitute for the sacrament of baptism.*

*Thanksgiving after Adoption may be used in the home. If the child was baptized before adoption the service provides an opportunity for receiving him or her into the life of the parish and may be used at Holy Communion or at Morning or Evening Prayer. This service should not be used before the official Adoption Order has been made.*

*Minister*

Let us thank God that in his goodness he has given you this *son/daughter*.

*After the birth the parents say*

**God our Father,  
maker of all that is living,  
we praise you for the wonder and joy of creation.  
We thank you for the life of this child,  
for a safe delivery,  
and for the privilege of parenthood.  
Accept our thanks and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*After adoption the adoptive parents say*

**God our Father,  
maker of all that is living,  
we praise you for the wonder and joy of creation.  
We thank you for the life of this child,  
for his/her adoption into our family,  
and for the privilege of parenthood,  
accept our thanks and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Minister*

Father in heaven,  
bless these parents  
that they may cherish their child,  
make them wise and understanding to help *him as he* grows,  
and surround this family with the light of your truth  
and the warmth of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PSALM VERSES

I will give you thanks O Lord with my whole heart,  
I will tell of all the wonders you have done.  
I will rejoice and be glad in you,  
I will make my songs to your name O Most High. *9: 1,2*

For you Lord are my hope,  
you are my confidence, O Lord, from my youth upward.  
On you have I leaned since my birth,  
you are he that brought me out of my mother's womb  
and my praise is of you continually. *71: 5,6*

*or Psalm 127 or 128 or 145*

SUGGESTED READINGS

*Genesis 1: 26-28, 31a; 1 Samuel 1: 20-28; Romans 8: 28-30; 12: 1-10;  
Ephesians 3: 14-21; Matthew 7: 24-27; Luke 2: 22-28a; John 16: 21*

PRAYERS

*Minister*

Let us pray.  
Heavenly Father,  
your blessed Son shared the life of an earthly home at Nazareth.  
Bless the home of this family,  
and help all the members of it to live together in your love.  
Teach them to serve you and each other,  
and make them always ready to show your love to those in need;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*and/or*

God our Father,  
we pray for all who have the care of this child.  
Guide them by your Holy Spirit,  
that they may bring *him* up in the ways of truth and love.  
Through their care enable *him* to grow in grace  
and become daily more like your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*This prayer may be used if the child has not been baptized:*

God our Father,  
we pray for this child  
that in faith *he* may be received by baptism  
into the family of your Church,  
and become an inheritor of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven ...**

*or*

**Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

*Minister*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.

Glory and honour and power are yours by right, O Lord our God;  
for you created all things and by your will they have their being.

**BLESSING**

*Priest*

The love of the Lord Jesus Christ 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 with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

