

Christening: Thanksgiving for a Child

1. PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The parents and supporters stand up with their child (and any siblings) and the minister asks,

Do you receive this child as a gift from God?

Parents and Godparents: We do.

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

Parents and Godparents: We do.

2. PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR CHILDREN

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.

3. THE NAMING

What name have you given this child?

A parent or supporting friend replies,

A Godparent: His/Her name is _____.

4. THE BLESSING

The minister may take the child.

As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them, so now we ask God's blessing on ____.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for this child'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.

**May you 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 God's grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

5. PRAYER FOR PARENTS

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 their children's needs and, by their example, reveal the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

6. THE PROMISES

The minister addresses the supporting friends and says,

Will you do all that you can to help and support these parents in the bringing up of this child?

The Godparents: **With the help of God, we will.**

The minister addresses the church family and says,

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

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