

**20 + C + M + B + 18**

**Blessing of a Home**

*CHURCH NAME HERE*

Celebration for a Home

**Chalking the Door**

*The Presider greets the people.*

Peace be to this house and to all who enter here.

A reading from Proverbs: "By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."

Let us pray: Gracious God, as a shining star once guided the magi to the birthplace of the infant Jesus, so enable those who dwell here to be your light in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray.  *Amen.*

*Using chalk , people are invited to inscribe the lintel of the home (the horizontal frame above the door) with the inscription shown below.  Children might choose to write across the bottom of the door if they cannot be held up for the lintel .  The letters C M B come from the traditional (9th century) names for the "three kings" -- Caspar, Melchior & Balthazar. Some also suggest "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means*

*"May Christ bless this dwelling!"*

*Each person is afforded a turn to make one or more of the marks:*

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*The Presider, members of the household, and friends assemble in the living room of the home*

*(If brief Holy Communion is desired, a table can  be prepared f using the usual vessels as well as the usual*

*bread and wine of the home ).*

*The service may begin with the following or some other appropriate Collect, the Presider first saying*

The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, grant to this home the grace of your presence, that you may be known to be the inhabitant of this dwelling, and the defender of this household; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**In a Bedroom**

*Antiphon*

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

V. I lie down and go to sleep:

R. I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God of life and love, the true rest of your people: Sanctify to your *servants their* hours of rest and refreshment, *their* sleeping and *their* waking; and grant that, strengthened by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, *they* may rise to serve you all the days of *their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**In the Kitchen**

*Antiphon*

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the Name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.

V. The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord:

R. And you give them their food in due season.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O Lord our God, you supply every need of ours according to your great riches: Bless the hands that work in this place, and give us grateful hearts for daily bread; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**In a Dining Room or Area**

*Antiphon*

The living God gave you from heaven rain and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.

V. He brings forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden our hearts:

R. Oil to make a cheerful countenance, and bread to strengthen the heart.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Blessed are you, O Lord, King of the universe, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives: Make us grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**In the Living Room or Family Room**

*Antiphon*

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when God’s people live together in unity!

V. Above everything, love one another earnestly:

R. For love is of God and those who love God, love each other .

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Give your blessing, Lord, to all who share this room, that they may be knit together in fellowship here on earth, and joined with the communion of your saints in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Home

*When the procession has returned to the living room, or immediately after the homily (and invocation), the Presider completes the blessing of the home as follows:*

*Antiphon*

The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness tranquility and trust for ever. My people will abide in secure dwellings and in quiet resting places.

V. Unless the Lord builds the house:

R. Their labor is in vain who build it.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless *all* who *live* here with the gift of your love; and grant that *they* may manifest your love [to each other and] to all whose lives *they touch*. May *they* grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen *them*; and preserve *them* in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*If  Holy Communion  is not celebrated, the rite  concludes  with the Peace*

*Presider*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*And also with you.*

*The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*