

A THANKSGIVING AFTER CHILDBIRTH

This thanksgiving may be made at a public service of the Church. The mother and father, bringing the newly born child, kneel before the holy Table, or at some other convenient place, and the minister facing them says:

Almighty God has been good to you in giving you the gift of a child; and has safely brought the mother and the child through the critical time of childbirth. Let us all therefore thank and praise God together.

The minister and parents together with the congregation say the following Psalm responsively:

Psalm 145: 1-8

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

On the glorious splendour of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, will meditate.

The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.

They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end.

AMEN

OR

For the gift of human love and family life, let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For God's creation and for our share in his creative work, and for all his gifts to us, of which he has made us stewards, and particularly for this child, let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For the birth and safe delivery of this child, let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

For the skills and care of all who help at the time of childbirth and for all who support us at such times of need, let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The minister says:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, we give you our heartfelt thanks for your love and mercy in giving this woman, your servant, a safe and happy childbirth. Grant that she, remembering your care and love for her, may never cease to give you thanks and serve you faithfully; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

O God, our Lord, by whose creative power and love this woman has been granted the gift of a child, give to her and her husband wisdom and guidance, that they may know how to train their child in the way that leads to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

The parents say:

O God, our Father, we give thanks to you for the child whom you have given to us: help us to live together as a family in love, joy and peace: give us wisdom to be good parents that we may all love and serve you faithfully. **AMEN**

The minister says:

Almighty God, help your servants, **N** and **N**, who have gladly come to thank you for your goodness, that in caring for their family, they may please you and do your will, and may have the assurance of your ever-abiding presence with them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Lord's prayer

Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN

The minister dismisses them with this blessing:

The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon your going out and your coming in; upon your talking and upon your silence; upon your prayers and upon your work; upon your home and upon your fellowship therein, this day, henceforth, and for ever. **AMEN**

The parents may make a thank-offering, and, if there is a service of Holy Communion, they may receive the Communion together.

If the child has died, Psalm 63:1-8 may be said in place of Psalm 145:1-8. And, instead of the prayers appointed above, the minister says the following prayer, followed by the Lord's Prayer and the Benediction:

Almighty God, we humbly praise you that you have saved your handmaid from all the dangers of her delivery, so that she can again come to your house today. Beloved Father, comfort her and her husband in their sorrow, and strengthen them that they may continue in the faith, do your will, and at the end of the days of their journey attain the glory of life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**