

you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.’ (6.25-33)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Invocation

Let the mighty power of the Holy God be present in this place to banish from it every unclean spirit, to cleanse it from every residue of evil, and make it a secure habitation for those who dwell in it; in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All present join the priest and family as they journey to the home’s Entrance, Kitchen, Bedrooms and finally, back to the central living room. A member of the family, if possible, bears a lighted candle.

At the Entrance

Antiphon: Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come into the house and eat with you, and you with me.

V. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in:

R. From this time forth for evermore.

Let us pray. Sovereign Lord, you are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end: Send your servants out from this place on many errands, be their constant companion in the way, and welcome them upon their return, so that in coming and going they may be sustained by your presence, O 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. O Lord our God, your 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 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. O God of life and love, the true rest of your people: Sanctify to your servant(s) *N. & N. 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 a Child’s Room

Antiphon: Jesus said, Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to those like them belongs the kingdom of heaven.

V. Praise the Lord, you children of the Lord:

R. Praise the Name of the Lord.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, your Son our Savior took young children into his arms and blessed them: Embrace young *N.* whose room this is with your unfailing love, protect *him* from all danger, and bring *him* in safety to each new day, until *he* greets with joy the great day of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In a Guest Room

Antiphon: Do not neglect to show hospitality, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

V. Open your homes to each other without complaining:

R. Use the gifts you have received from God for the good of others.

Let us pray. Loving God, you have taught us to welcome one another as Christ welcomed us: Bless those who from time to time share the hospitality of this home. May your fatherly care shield

them, the love your dear Son preserve them from all evil, and the guidance of your Holy Spirit keep them in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In the Living 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 covers many sins.

Let us pray. Visit, O blessed Lord, and bless ✠ 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.**

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

And also with you.



The Reverend Clarke French, *Rector*

The Reverend Sarah Ball-Damberg, *Assistant to the Rector*

The Reverend Wren Blessing, *Assistant Curate*

Adapted for use from the Book of Occasional Services.

The Blessing of a Home

The priest, members of the household, and friends assemble in the living room of the home.

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Canticle: Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Opening Prayer

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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A member of the household reads the lesson.

A Reading from the Gospel according to St. Matthew:

Jesus said, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that