Blessing a new home

A blessing of a new home is conducted by a pastor or some other church worker or some other Christian.

A Bible and a cross or crucifix may be placed on a table covered with a white cloth, and a candle may be lit.

The blessing of a new home may be recorded in the family Bible. A home of only one person may also be blessed, but the wording should be adjusted accordingly, suggested at some points in this translation by brackets [ ].

1. Hymn

Instead of a hymn, some other suitable piece of music may be used.

2. Introduction

The invocation and greeting may be said or sung.

Invocation

P/R In the name of the Father, and of the (B) Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P/R Our help comes from the Lord.

C He has made heaven and earth.

OR

P/R The Lord be with you

C and with your spirit.

Introductory words

Introductory words may be formulated freely, but two examples are given here.

P/R Dear Christians, God has made everything in his creation to be good, and we can thankfully accept his gifts. God has given you this home and all that is necessary for it. Today we thank God, the giver of all gifts, and we hear his word. We ask for his blessing upon this home and all who live and visit here.

OR

P/R Dear Christians, a home is God’s great gift to us. It is our desire to be safe at home and that others recognize we belong there. We long for peace and readiness to forgive, brought to us when the Savior is present. He exhorts his followers to also greet all homes with peace. Today we thank for this home and ask for God’s blessing upon it. As the Savior instructed us, we say, “Peace to this house!” (Luke 10:5)

3. Psalm

The psalm may be replaced by the singing of a hymn.

Three alternative Psalms are given below, but some other one may be used instead, particularly a Psalm that follows the time of the church year.

The Psalm may be sung or said, concluded by “Glory to the Father...” (except during the last two weeks of Lent). The antiphon given here may precede and follow the Psalm.

Antiphon

The Lord is my refuge,

my home is protected by the Most High.

Psalm

The one who lives in the shelter of the Most High

and stays overnight in the shadow of the Almighty One, says like this:

“You, O Lord, are my fortress and refuge.

My God, I put my trust in you.”

The Lord spreads his wings over you,

and you are safe under their cover.

His faithfulness is a wall and a shield to protect you.

The Lord is your refuge,

your home is protected by the Most High.

Psalm 91:1–2, 4, 9

translated from Finnish

OR

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;

come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100

OR

Unless the Lord builds the house,

those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the Lord guards the city,

the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest,

eating the bread of anxious toil;

for he gives sleep to his beloved.

Psalm 127:1 – 2

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit

as it was in the beginning and is now and always,

from everlasting to everlasting. Amen.

The antiphon is repeated.

4. Scripture reading

One or more of the listed passages is read.

Other appropriate passages may also be read, especially ones that follow the time of the church year.

Reading may be followed by a moment of silent meditation.

Genesis 18:1 – 5

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.”

Deuteronomy 8:12 – 14, 17

When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.”

Joshua 24:14 – 15

Joshua said to all the people, “Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Acts 16:31

Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.

Romans 12:10 – 18

Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Philippians 4:4 – 7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus

Colossians 3:12 – 17

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Hebrews 13:2

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

1Peter 4:8 – 10

Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

Revelation 3:20

Christ says, “Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.”

Luke 10:38 – 42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

Luke 19:1 – 10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.”

So Zacchaeus hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

John 12:1 – 3

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 15:9 – 12

Jesus says, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

5. Response

A hymn or song or instrumental music may be used.

6. Speech

7. Hymn

Instead of a hymn, some other suitable piece of music may be used.

8. Prayer

Responsive reading

P/R Blessed are you, O Lord, our God!

C Yours is all that is in the heavens and on earth.

P/R Blessed be the name of the Lord now and forever.

C Resound the praises of his name!

Blessing

P/R God, in his goodness, gives us a home and people who are near and dear. May the triune God, the Father (B), Son and Holy Spirit, bless this home and all who live here and all who visit this place.

OR

P/R A servant of God prayed long ago, “I ask you to bless the house of your servant… You, O Lord, have blessed it, and so it will be blessed forever.” Trusting in the eternal goodness of the same eternal God, I call for his blessing upon this home in the name of the Father, and of the (B) Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May this home be a place where God’s will is sought and followed. May the love of Christ rule in your heart[s].

Prayer of intercession

Two alternatives are given here, the second one intended to be read by a member of the household. A freely formulated prayer may also be used.

P/R Let us pray.

1. Heavenly Father, we praise you for your gifts and your presence in all phases of life. We can take from your hand all that we have. Help us to use your gifts appropriately. Bless this home. [Let those who live here feel safe, and give them a sense of belonging together. Help them to love and honor each other.] Let those who visit this home also experience warmth and friendship. Hear us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. [Good God, we thank you for the home we now have. Thank you for this place where we can live, work, rest and quiet down. Be the Lord of our home and protect us with your goodness, so we might feel secure and be at peace. Let us gather strength at home for the many tasks we have in life. Lay a foundation, Lord, for our home, a foundation that will stand firm in times of trial. Make us builders of peace, and help us to find ways to pass the heritage of faith on to new generations. Keep our home open to all whom you send to us. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ.]

C Amen.

Lord’s prayer

The Lord’s prayer is said in unison.

C Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and for ever.

Amen.

9. Hymn

10. Benediction

The benediction may be said or sung.

P/R May the almighty and gracious God,

the Father (B), Son and Holy Spirit, give us his blessing.

C Amen.

OR

P/R The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face shine upon you,

and be gracious to you:

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,

and give you peace.

In the name of the Father,

and of the (B) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

11. Concluding music

A hymn or song or instrumental music may be used.