



BLESSING OF HOMES DURING EASTERTIME

It is an old tradition that houses are blessed, over the Easter season, with the Easter water blessed at the Easter Vigil. It is particularly appropriate that all the members of the family should be present. The blessing service is led by a member of the family.

All make the sign of the cross. The leader begins:

God fills our hearts and homes with peace.
Blessed be the name of the Lord.

All respond:

Now and for ever.

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

Christ, risen from the dead, is our hope, joy, and comfort. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love.

Then the Scripture is read:

Listen to the words of the holy gospel according to Luke:

As [the two disciples and Jesus] approached the village [of Emmaus, Jesus] gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?"

Luke 24:28-32

(The family's Bible may be used for an alternate reading such as John 20:19-21.)

The reader concludes:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All respond:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Intercessions may be made while going from room to room or around the outside of the house. This prayer may be said at the front door:

O God,
make the door of this house wide enough
to receive all who need human love and
fellowship,
narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride, and
strife.

Make its threshold smooth enough
to be no stumbling-block to children, nor to
straying feet,
but rugged and strong enough to turn back the
tempter's power.

God, make the door of this house the gateway
to your eternal kingdom.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

The house and rooms and family may be sprinkled with holy water, a reminder of baptism during the Easter season. The procession and intercessions conclude with the Lord's Prayer. The leader then speaks the prayer of blessing:

Lord,
we rejoice in the victory of your Son over death:
by rising from the tomb to new life
he gives us new hope and promise.

Bless all the members of this household
and surround them with your protection,
that they may find comfort and peace
in Jesus Christ, the paschal lamb,
who lives and reigns with you and the

Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader concludes:

May Christ Jesus dwell with us,
keep us from all harm,
and make us one in mind and heart,
now and for ever.

R. Amen.

The blessing may conclude with song. The following may be sung to any appropriate tune.

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
All on earth and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won. Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!



JESUS LIVES