

# The Thanksgiving Service

## 1. The minister says:

Let us thank God that in his goodness he has given you *this son/daughter*.  
God our Father, maker of all that is living,  
we praise you for the wonder and joy of creation.  
We thank you from our hearts for the life of *this child*,  
for a safe delivery, and for the privilege of parenthood.  
Accept our thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 2. The parents may say together:

Lord God, in giving us this child you have shown us your love.  
Help us to be trustworthy parents.  
Make us patient and understanding,  
that our child may always be sure of our love  
and grow up to be happy and responsible;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 3. The congregation may say a psalm.

### 4. Mark 10.13-16 may be read:

'People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.'

## 5. The minister gives the parents a copy of one of the gospels, saying:

This book contains the Good News of God's love. Read it, for it tells you how you and your family can share in eternal life, through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

## 6. The minister says this prayer:

Almighty God, you give us all we need for life and godliness. Look with favour on this child; grant that, being nourished with all your goodness, he may grow in grace and Christian commitment until he comes to know you for himself through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 7. The congregation say this prayer together:

Father in heaven, bless these parents, that they may cherish their child; make them wise and understanding, to help him as he grows, and surround this family with the light of your truth and the warmth of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## 8. These or other prayers may be included, and the service concludes with a blessing:

Almighty God, you have consecrated marriage as a sign of the union between Christ and his people. May this child may learn more of your love from seeing his father love and cherish his wife as Christ loves his church. Enable him to learn more of true faith from seeing his mother love and submit to her husband as Christ's people submit to Christ. Grant, in your mercy, that in this home, the fear and peace of Christ may rule over all. Amen.

God our Father, we pray to you for all who have the care of this child. Guide them with your Holy Spirit, that they may bring him up in the ways of truth and love. Through their care and teaching enable him to grow in grace and become daily more like your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.