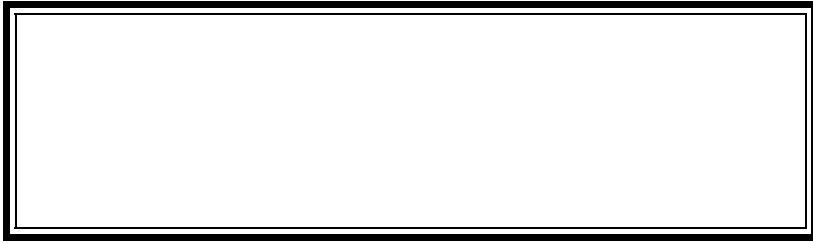


## Liturgy for the General Blessing Of A Household, Family and Dwelling

Leader: In the name of the Father, and the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Family: Amen.

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ: Today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness to bless and dedicate this dwelling and the family of:



L: Peace to this house and to all who enter here.

L: A reading from Proverbs: By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (Proverbs 24:3-4).

A Candle is lighted.

☩ Blessing For the Whole Family and Household ☩

L: A reading from St. Matthew: "You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead he puts it on a lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven." (Matt. 5:14-16).

L: Let us pray. O God, as this candle gives light to this home, so enable those who dwell here to be your light in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

F: Amen.

☩ Blessing For the Entrance of the House ☩

L: A reading from the Psalms: The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore. (Psalm 121:8).

L: Let us pray. O God, protect and guide those who live here, their going out and their

coming in; and let them share the hospitality of this home with all who visit, that those who enter here may know your love and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

F: Amen.

☩ Blessing For the Living / Family Room and Space ☩

L: A reading from St. John: "I give you a new commandment: love one another; as I have loved you, so you are to love one another. If there is this love among you, then all will know that you are my disciples. (John 13:34-35).

L: Let us pray. O God, be present with those who come here for fellowship and recreation, that they may be renewed and refreshed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

F: Amen.

☩ Blessing For the Study, Library or Reading Space ☩

L: A reading from Proverbs: Give instruction to the wise and they will be still wiser; teach the righteous and they will increase in learning. (Prov. 9:9)

L: Let us pray. O God, you are the teacher who leads us to all truth. Grant that those who study and learn may use knowledge in accordance with your will, to bring peace and healing to all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

F: Amen.

☩ Blessing For the Kitchen or Area Where Meals are Prepared ☩

L: A reading from Joel: "I will send you corn, and new wine, and oil, and you shall have your fill. Rejoice and be glad in the Lord your God." (Joel 2:19, 23).

L: Let us pray. O God, you fill the hungry with good things. Send your blessing upon those who work in this kitchen, and make us all ever thankful for our daily bread; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

F: Amen.

☩ Blessing For the Dining Room or Place Where Meals are Served ☩

L: A reading from the Psalms: The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season. (Psalm 145:16)

L: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad. Help us to be grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

✚ Blessing For Bedrooms and Places of Rest ✚

L: A reading from the Psalms: I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety. (Psalm 4:8).

L: Let us pray. Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

F: Amen.

✚ Blessing For Guest Rooms and Places of Hospitality ✚

L: A reading from Romans: Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7).

L: Let us pray. O God, refresh all who visit here, that they may know friendship and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

F: Amen.

✚ The Concluding Blessing ✚

L: A reading from Isaiah: The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places. (Isaiah 32:17-18).

L: Let us pray. O God, we pray that you will bless this house and those who live here with your gracious presence, that your love may be their inspiration, your wisdom their guide, your truth their light, and your peace their benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

F: Amen.

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.

L: The Lord watch over our going out and our coming in, from this time forth forever.

F: Amen.



(The biblical and theological understanding that our being blessed by God also contains the inseparable call to be a blessing to others is grounded in the blessing, covenant and promise God gave to Abraham as described in Genesis 12:1-4. In this ancient biblical narrative, Abraham is blessed by God and is called to be a blessing to all the families of the earth. The Hebrew language underscores the inseparable linkage between our being blessed by God and the call to be a blessing to others through the use of the two similar Hebrew words בְּרַכָּךָ “barak” which means blessing and בְּרַכָּה “barakah” which means to be a blessing to others. The linkage of God’s blessing and the call to be a blessing to others is also reflected in the New Testament Greek word εὐλογεω “you-low-gia” which means “to speak a good word” or bless and comes to full fruition in the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. These theological and biblical teachings serve as the basis for the Church’s mission to help people celebrate both their בְּרַכָּךָ “barak” blessing and their בְּרַכָּה “barakah” call to be a blessing to others. The Liturgy for the Blessing of a Family, Household and Dwelling reflects these themes and has been prepared as a part of the Lent 2005 emphasis on the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Our Call to Ministry. This Liturgy for Blessing is an adaptation of and contains portions reprinted from The General Order of Blessing and The Blessing of A Dwelling as outlined in the Occasional Services: A Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship copyright ©1982 and is used by permission of Augsburg Fortress. It is our hope and prayer that through the sharing of this Blessing every family and member of Philadelphia Evangelical Lutheran Church will come to know, in a renewed and joyous way, God’s love and grace given to us in Jesus Christ and the New Life and ministry to which we have been called in Holy Baptism.

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