



An Example Thanksgiving Service

Note: This is only an example and individual services will vary.

This booklet contains material from Common Worship: Initiation Services (1998) which is © The Archbishops' Council

The Greeting

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

All and also with you.

Informal Welcome

Hymn/Song

Prayer for the Day

Prayers of Penitence

God so loved the world
that He gave His only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins
to be our advocate in heaven
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**All: Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved You with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In Your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with You, our God.
Amen**

Prayer Confirming God's Forgiveness
Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Hymn/Song

THE THANKSGIVING

Introduction

We are here today to give thanks for *n and n*, with *their* family and friends, and to support *their* parents in their responsibilities with prayer and love.

God became one of us in Jesus, and understands all that surrounds the arrival and upbringing of children. It is God's purpose that children should know love within the stability of their home, grow in faith, and come at last to the eternal city where his love reigns supreme.

The works of the Lord are great:
his mercy endures for ever.

Mary gave birth to a child and called him Jesus:
he will save his people from their sins.

He will be called the Prince of Peace:
his kingdom will last for ever.

Loving God,
you hold all things in life
and call us into your kingdom of peace;
help us to walk the path of your truth
and fill our lives with gratitude and faith,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The children for whom we will give thanks for together with their Parents, Sponsors (Godparents) and possibly other family and friends come to the front.

The minister asks the assembled family and friends:

Do you receive these children as a gift from God?
We do.

Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek his blessing?
We do.

God our creator,
we thank you for the wonder of new life
and for the mystery of human love.
We thank you for all whose support and skill
surround and sustain the beginning of life.
We thank you that we are known to you by name
and loved by you from all eternity.

We thank you for Jesus Christ,
who has opened to us the way of love.
We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Affirmation of the Name

The minister asks for each child

What name have you given this child?

A Parent or Sponsor/Godparent replies

His/her name is *N*.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

The minister takes each child individually his/her arms and says:

As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them,
so now we ask God's blessing on *N*.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for *his/her* birth;
surround *his/her* with your blessing
that *he/she* may know your love,
be protected from evil,
and know your goodness all *his/her* days.

All **May she learn to love all that is true,
grow in wisdom and strength
and, in due time, come through faith and baptism
to the fullness of your grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayer for the Parents

May God the Father of all bless *N and N*
and give *them* grace to love and care for *their children*.
May God give *them* wisdom, patience and faith,
help *them* to provide for the *children's* needs
and, by *their* example,
reveal the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Giving of a Bible

A Bible is presented, with these words

Receive this book.
It is the good news of God's love.
Take it as your guide.

Promises of Support

The minister addresses the Sponsors/Godparents and says

Will you do all that you can to help and support *N* and *N* in the bringing up of *N*?
With the help of God, we will.

The minister may address the wider family and friends and say

Will you do all that you can to help and support this family?
With the help of God, we will.

Prayers

This prayer may be said by the parents or by the whole congregation

God our creator,
we thank you for the gift of **these children**,
entrusted to our care.
May we be patient and understanding,
ready to guide and to forgive,
so that through our love
they may come to know your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn/Song

Bible Readings

Sermon

Hymn/Song

Prayers of Intercession

concluding with:

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.**

¶ THE SENDING OUT

The Notices

Offertory Hymn

The Blessing

The God of all grace,
Who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of god almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ, Amen.