

Thanksgiving for the birth of a child

The dedication of parents and the blessing of children

Where possible the act of thanksgiving should follow the reading of Scripture and the sermon or another form of proclamation of the Word. It is most appropriate when other children in the congregation are present. The act looks forward to baptism at a point in the future and is therefore not a substitute for baptism.

- 1. Introduction 67
- 2. The Word

Introduction

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
All **for his steadfast love endures for ever.**

Psalm 106:1

We come together as part of the family of God.

We welcome especially ... A ... and ... B ... ,

who have come to give thanks to God

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Thanksgiving, dedication and blessing

All stand. The Minister asks the parents:

Do you thank God for the gift of ... N ... ?

We do.

Do you, as parents, dedicate yourselves to God?

We do.

Do you promise so to order your lives
that ... N ... will be surrounded by love and goodness?

We do.

Where parents are not members the following question may be omitted:

Do you promise, by God's help,
to provide a Christian home for ... N ...
and to bring them up in the faith of the Gospel
and the fellowship of the Church?

We do.

If there are older children in the family the Minister may include a suitable
promise for them to make.

May the Lord bless you and give you grace
faithfully to carry out these promises;
may God grant you joy and patience, love and peace.

To the congregation:

On behalf of the whole Church of Jesus Christ,
we undertake to provide for the instruction of ... N ...
in the gospel of God's love,
the example of Christian faith and character,
and the strong support of the family of God

... N ... , the Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

All **Amen.**

Numbers 6:24-26

If the Minister does not use the Aaronic blessing it may be sung by the congregation (*Rejoice and Sing 420*).

The Minister or Elder may present a Bible to the parents.

Prayers

God our creator, we thank you for the gift of ... N

We thank you for the love that prepared

for *their* coming

and welcomed *them* into the world,

and be graciously (and we rejoice) [and we rejoice] (, we .)healf .Wf bodywe t j /dand we rejoia