



AN EASTERTIME BLESSING OF HOMES

All is prepared beforehand: The Family Bible with the Gospel to be proclaimed (Luke 24:28-32), A Vessel of Water, and A Small Branch for Sprinkling. A Blessed Candle is lighted. A Leader is selected, as is the Reader, the Candle Bearer, and the Water Bearer. It is most suitable, during these joyful days, to begin with a song.

All make the Sign of the Cross, as the Leader begins:

Let us praise God, (+) who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God forever. Alleluia!

All respond: **BLESSED BE GOD FOREVER. ALLELUIA!**

The Leader continues:

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ, risen from the dead, who is our source of hope, joy, and comfort. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love.

The Reader proclaims the Gospel.

All present go to the Front Door of the Home, led by the Candle and Water.

The Leader continues:

**O God,
make the door of this home 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.
Through Christ our Lord.**

All reply: AMEN.

*Beginning with the Door, and moving from room to room as appropriate,
each space is sprinkled with the water. Gathering at the table where meals are
taken together, all pray:*

OUR FATHER...

The Leader then offers 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, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever.**

All reply: **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 forever. Alleluia!**

All reply: **AMEN. ALLELUIA!**

It is suitable to conclude with an appropriate Easter song.

*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!*



The Domestic Church of _____

Write or Print Your Family Name

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This Order of Prayer is an adaptation taken from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, First Edition (1988) and Revised Edition (2007), published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It is intended for use by the households of Annunciation Parish.