

A BLESSING OF THE FAMILY

THE RITE OF BLESSING

All make the sign of the cross. The leader begins:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all, now and for ever.

R. Amen.

The leader may use these words, or words adapted to the specific occasion, to introduce the blessing:

We are a family. For one another, we are love and trial, strength and trouble. Even when far apart, we belong to one another and, in various ways, we remember and pray for one another. We join now to give thanks to our God and to ask God's blessing on this family (those who are present and those who are not here).

Then the Scripture is read:

Col 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

After a time of silence, all offer prayers of intercession, remembering especially those who have died. Then all join hands for the Lord's Prayer.

The Leader says the prayer of blessing.

In good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, we belong to each other as we belong to you, God ever faithful. By morning and by night may your name be on our lips, a blessing to all our days: so may kindness and patience be ever among us, a hunger for justice, and songs of thankfulness in all we do.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

The leader may make the sign of the cross.

May the Lord Jesus, who lived with his holy family in Nazareth, dwell also with your (our) family, keep it from all evil, and make all of you (us) one in heart and mind.

R. Amen.

The leader says: Let us bless the Lord.

All respond, making the sign of the cross.