



BLESSING OF A DWELLING

*Epiphany Day (or another day during the season of Epiphany) offers an occasion for gathering with friends and family for a blessing of the home, using the following as a model. Someone may lead the introduction, while another person may read the scripture passage. A visual blessing may be inscribed with chalk above a main door; for example, 20 + CMB + the current year. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means, "Christ, bless this house," or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).*

INTRODUCTION TO THE HOUSE BLESSING

Matthew proclaims that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. "On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother" (Matthew 2:11). In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, and in life, Christ is welcome.

SCRIPTURE

As we ask God's blessing on this household, let us receive the words of scripture.



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

John 1:1-4, 14, 16

HOUSE BLESSING

This inscription may be made with chalk above an entrance:

20 ✠ C M B ✠ 23

Christ, bless this house,

C: Christe

M: Mansionem

B: Benedicat

in the year of our Lord in this common era,

20: two thousand

23: twenty-three.

✠: Let your grace be with us this whole year,

✠: and your peace upon all who enter here.

PRAYER

O God, we pray that you bless this household with your gracious presence.

May your love be our inspiration,

your wisdom our guide,

your truth our light,

and your peace our joy;

through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God the Creator who delights in us,

Jesus the Savior who is born for us, ✠

and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on us,

bless and keep you in peace and love,

now and forever. **Amen.**