

# CELEBRATION FOR A HOME

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*Response* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, grant to this home the grace of your presence, that you may be known to be the inhabitant of this dwelling, and the defender of this household; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A reading from the Psalms (Ps. 127:1-2)

Unless the Lord builds the house,  
those who build it labor in vain.

Unless the Lord guards the city,  
the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up early  
and go late to rest,

Eating the bread of anxious toil;  
for he gives sleep to his beloved.

## *Invocation*

Let the mighty power of the Holy God be present in this place to banish from it every unclean spirit, to cleanse it from every evil, and to make it a secure habitation for those who dwell in it; in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## *In a Living Room*

Give your blessing, Lord, to all who share this room, that they may be knit together in fellowship here on earth, and joined with the communion of your saints in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## *In a Bedroom*

O God of life and love, the true rest of your people: Sanctify to your servants the hours of rest and refreshment, their sleeping and their waking; and grant that, strengthened by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, they may rise to serve you all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## *In a Bathroom*

O holy God, in the incarnation of your son our Lord you made our flesh the instrument of your self-revelation: Give us a proper respect and reverence for our mortal bodies, keeping them clean and fair, whole and sound; that, glorifying you in them, we may confidently await our being clothed with spiritual bodies, when that which is mortal is transformed by life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

© Lord our God, you supply every need of ours according to your great riches: Bless the hands that work in this place, and give us grateful hearts for daily bread; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness tranquility and trust for ever. My people will abide in secure dwellings and in quiet resting places.

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless those who live here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them; and preserve them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*Response* And also with you.

*Blessing*  
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 the light of His countenance upon you  
And give you peace.  
Now and forever. *Amen.*

*Blessing of the Home of* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## Genesis 18:1-10

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.