**Blessing of a Pregnant Woman**

*(Adapted from "The Blessing of a Pregnant Woman," SSJE Manual, 5th ed., I970. Note also material from The Book of Occasional Services 2003, pages I57 - 58.)*

*This blessing may be offered at any time and in any place. If the blessing is to include friends and family, the priest may begin with these or similar words:*

We have gathered today to implore God's grace upon N., and to

seek divine mercy for her and her expected child.

V. God is our refuge and strength

R. A very present help in trouble.

V. She shall not be overthrown

R. God shall help her at the break of day.

V. Hear our prayer 0 God.

R. Let our cry come to you.

V. May God be with you.

R. And also with you.

Let us pray.

Loving God, by your grace the virgin mother of your incarnate

Son visited her cousin Elizabeth in their pregnancies. May this

visitation encourage N. in her pregnancy and give her confidence

in your mercy and loving-kindness, through Jesus Christ our

Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one

God, for ever and ever. Amen. *(After the collect for the Visitation,*

*BCP p. 240)*

*or this*

Eternal God, creator of all, and source of all goodness and hope;

hear the prayer of N., who bids your blessing for the preservation

of the child you have given her to conceive. Continue your care for

her, that by your mercy her child may come safely to birth in good

time, and be whole and healthy, so that they both may come to

rejoice in your loving-kindness, who holds all our souls in life and

sealed the salvation of your world in the gift of the birth of Jesus

Christ. Amen. *(SSJE Manual)*

*Here the woman may be sprinkled with holy water and/or anointed*

*Then may be said one or more of the following Psalms: 67, 113, or 117*

V. Let us bless the Holy, Blessed, and Glorious Trinity, one God.

R. Let us praise and magnify our God for ever.

V. May God be with you.

R. And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, visit your daughter N., as she waits the birth of her

child. Protect her from all that might threaten her and her child;

let your holy angels be with them to preserve them in your peace,

and let your blessing be ever upon them, in the name of Jesus

Christ, our Savior. Amen

*or this*

Loving God, giver of life, hear our prayer for N. and for the child

she has conceived, that, by your grace, they both may come in

safety to a timely and healthy birth, and rejoice in your gracious

providence. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and

reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

*When appropriate, any or all of the following may be added:*

Blessed are you, loving God. You have blessed the union of N. and

N. Amen.

Blessed are you, merciful God. May your blessing be upon N. and

the child she carries. Amen.

Blessed are you, gracious God. May this time of pregnancy be for

N. and N. a time of drawing nearer to you and to each other. Amen.

Blessed are you, holy God. May N. and N's. experience of birth be

full of awe, wonder, and the joy of sharing in your creation. Amen.

*or this:*

The blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and

your child and bring you both through a safe and happy birth. Amen.