**A Thanksgiving for the Birth**

**or Adoption of a Child**

**(From the Book of Common Prayer)**

**For the Birth of a Child**

The birth of a child is a joyous and solemn

occasion in the life of a family.  It is also an occasion for

rejoicing in the Christian community.  I bid you, therefore,

to join *N.* [and *N.*] in giving thanks to Almighty God our

heavenly Father, the Lord of all life, for the gift of *N.* to be

their son (daughter) [and with *N.* (and *N.N.*), for a new

brother (sister)].

**Act of Thanksgiving**

*The Celebrant says*

Since it has pleased God to bestow upon *N.* [and *N.*] the gift

of a child, let us now give thanks to him, and say together:

*The Song of Mary*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God by Savior; \*     for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  \*

    the Almighty has done great things for me,

    and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*

    in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*

    he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  \*

    and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*

    and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  \*

    for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \*

    to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

    as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.  Amen.

*or this*

*Psalm 116*

I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my

                                supplication, \*

because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called

                                upon him.

Gracious is the LORD and righteous; \*

    our God is full of compassion.

How shall I repay the LORD \*

    for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation \*

    and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*

    in the presence of all his people.

In the courts of the LORD'S house, \*

    in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

    Hallelujah!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

    as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.  Amen.

*or this*

*Psalm 23*

The LORD is my shepherd; \*

    I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures \*

    and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul \*

    and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; \*

    for you are with me;

    your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those

                            who trouble me; \*

    you have anointed my head with oil,

    and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the

                            days of my life, \*

    and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

    as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.  Amen.

*The Celebrant then says this prayer*

Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us through your blessed Son that

whoever receives a little child in the name of Christ receives

Christ himself: We give thanks for the blessing you have

bestowed upon this family in giving them a child.  Confirm

their joy by a lively sense of your presence with them, and

give them calm strength and patient wisdom as they seek to

bring this child to love all that is true and noble, just and

pure, lovable and gracious, excellent and admirable,

following the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Amen.*

**Prayers**

*The Celebrant may add one or more of the following prayers*

*For a safe delivery*

O gracious God, we give you humble and hearty thanks that

you have preserved through the pain and anxiety of child-

birth your servant &N., who desires now to offer you her praises

and thanksgivings.  Grant, most merciful Father, that by your

help she may live faithfully according to your will in this life,

and finally partake of everlasting glory in the life to come;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*For the parents*

Almighty God, giver of life and love, bless *N.* and *N.*  Grant

them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common

life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a

counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion

in joy.  And so knit their wills together in your will and their

spirits in your Spirit, that they may live together in love and

peace all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

*For a child not yet baptized*

O eternal God, you have promised to be a father to a

thousand generations of those who love and fear you: Bless

this child and preserve *his* life; receive *him* and enable *him* to

receive you, that through the Sacrament of Baptism *he* may

become the child of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

*For a child already baptized*

Into your hands, O God, we place your child *N.*  Support *him*

in *his* successes and in *his* failures, in *his* joys and in *his*

sorrows.  As *he* grows in age, may *he* grow in grace, and inthe knowledge of his Savior Jesus Christ.  *Amen.*

*The Celebrant may then bless the family*

May God the Father, who by Baptism adopts us as his

children, grant you grace.  *Amen.*

May God the Son, who sanctified a home at Nazareth, fill

you with love.  *Amen.*

May God the Holy Spirit, who has made the Church one

family, keep you in peace.  *Amen.*

*The Peace may be exchanged.*