**Prayer and blessing during pregnancy**

*God is involved in the conception and birth of every child as he gives to a woman and a man the*

*privilege of being involved with him in his creation. By his incarnation, God’s Son entered our human*

*family to dignify and bless the whole process of child-bearing from the conception to the delivery of*

*the child. This short rite for prayer and blessing during pregnancy can be conducted by a pastor in*

*a public setting, or by any Christian in private.*

### Greeting

\_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_, the peace of the Lord be with you.

**Amen.**

### Introduction

Friends, our heavenly Father has made \_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_happy by blessing them with the conception of a child. Today we give thanks to God and to ask God’s continued blessing on them and the child he is giving them.

### Word of God

Hear the word of the Lord as it is written in Psalm 139.

You have looked deep into my heart, Lord, and you know all about me.

You are the one who put me together inside my mother’s body,

and I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me.

With your own eyes you saw my body being formed.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

A lit candle, symbol of life, or some other suitable symbol, may be given to the mother and father. The leader or presenter says:

Receive this \_\_\_\_ to remind you that God our heavenly Father has given you your child as his gift to you.

### Hymn/song

A hymn or song may be sung.

### Prayer

Let us pray.

Gracious heavenly Father, you are the creator of life, the giver of every good gift. We thank you that you have blessed ….. and ….. and gladdened their heart with a child whom they look forward to seeing.

Protect them and their unborn child from sickness and every evil. Let the child develop

under your care, and, when the time for delivery comes, give the child a safe birth.

Give \_\_\_\_joy and peace as she carries, nourishes, protects, and gives birth to her child. Grant her good health, a calm mind, and a firm faith in you. As you nourish her with the spiritual food of your word and sacrament, so nourish the child through her. Help \_\_\_\_ to be a caring and supporting husband and father.

Grant \_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_ *(list needs that emerge in conversation).*

As you have given this child to \_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_, accept the child from them, so that he or she may be yours forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**.

### Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,**

 **hallowed be your name,**

 **your kingdom come,**

 **your will be done,**

 **on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

 **as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,**

 **but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

 **now and forever. Amen.**

### Blessing

Lord, we commit into your keeping the unborn child whom you have entrusted to \_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_. May the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son (†), and Holy Spirit, be with you and with your child now and always.

**Amen.**

*This rite has been adapted from that in ‘Rites and Resources for Pastoral Care’ prepared by the Commission of Worship of the Lutheran Church of Australia, and distributed by Australian Church Resources.*