**Prayer and blessing after childbirth**

 *The safe arrival of a child is usually a cause for great joy, which this rite assumes is the*

*predominant feeling of the mother and father. In more difficult situations the rite will need to be*

*adapted sensitively.*

### Greeting

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**Amen.**

### Prayer for blessing

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, you sent your own Son to be born as the child of Mary and Joseph. We thank you for the birth of \_\_\_\_, whom you have given to \_\_\_\_and \_\_\_\_ to care for. Bless \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_, so that their child may be loved and nurtured as he/she grows. Grant that he/she may become your son/daughter in holy baptism, and bring him/her finally to his/her inheritance as your child in the kingdom of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we thank and praise you that you have kept \_\_\_\_ safe through the anxious time of childbirth. As you blessed Mary through the birth of your Son Jesus Christ, bless \_\_\_\_, so that she may know the joy of seeing her child grow. Give her patience and strength, and help her to live faithfully according to your word; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Word of God

Hear the word of the Lord as it is written in Psalm 8.

O Lord, our Lord,

your greatness is seen in all the world!

Your praise reaches up to the heavens;

it is sung by children and babies.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Blessing

\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_,

May God the Father, be your (†) fountain of life to bless you and give you health and happiness.

May Jesus, the Son of God, be your rock (†) to give you strength and peace for the future.

May the Holy Spirit be your (†) light to protect you from all the powers of darkness and give you joy.

**Amen.**

### Prayer

Let us pray.

 Lord God, you are like a loving parent, caring for your children. You watch over us and protect

us. We thank you for sustaining \_\_\_\_ during her pregnancy and labour, for comforting \_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_ during times of anxiety, and for giving them a new son/daughter. Help them to be wise,

strong, and loving, as you love them. In your love, bring \_\_\_\_ to your family in holy baptism. We

ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Lord’s Prayer

Let us pray together the prayer our Lord has taught us.

**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.**

### Closing blessing

The Lord keep you/us from all evil; the Lord guard your/our life; the Lord watch over you/us, as you/we go out and as you/we come in (†), now and forever. **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.*