

De Benedictione Mulieris Post Partum	Blessing of a Mother after Childbirth (Churching of Women)
<p>Si qua puerpera post partum, juxta piam ac laudabilem consuetudinem, ad Ecclesiam venire voluerit, pro incolumitate sua Deo gratias actura, petieritque a Sacerdote benedictionem, ipse superpelliceo et stola alba indutus, cum ministro aspergillum deferente, ad fores Ecclesiae accedat, ubi illam foris ad limina genuflectentem, et candelam accensam in manu tenentem, aqua benedicta aspergat, deinde dicat:</p>	<p>1. After giving birth to a child a mother may wish to give thanks to God in church for a safe delivery, and to obtain the Church's blessing. This has long been a devout and praiseworthy practice. The priest, vested in surplice and white stole (assisted by a server who carries the aspersory), goes to the threshold of the church. The woman kneels there, holding a lighted candle.</p>
<p>Sacerdos: Adjutorium nostrum in nomine Domini.</p>	<p>The priest sprinkles her with holy water, saying: Our help is in the name of the Lord.</p>
<p>R: Qui fecit caelum et terram.</p>	<p>All: Who made heaven and earth.</p>
<p>Antiphona. Haec accipiet benedictionem a Domino, et misericordiam a Deo salutari suo: quia haec est generatio quaerentium Dominum.</p>	<p>He then says the following antiphon and Psalm 23:</p>
<p>Antiphona. Haec accipiet benedictionem a Domino, et misericordiam a Deo salutari suo: quia haec est generatio quaerentium Dominum.</p>	<p>Antiphon: This woman shall receive a blessing from the Lord and mercy from God, her Savior; for she is one of the people who seek the Lord.</p>
<p>Psalmus 23</p>	<p>Psalm 23</p>
<p>Domine est terra, et plenitudo ejus: * orbis terrarum, et universi, qui habitant in eo.</p>	<p>P: The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; * the world and those who dwell in it.</p>
<p>Quia ipse super maria fundavit eum: * et super flumina praeeparavit eum.</p>	<p>All: For He founded it upon the seas * and established it upon the rivers.</p>
<p>Quis ascendet in montem Domini? * aut quis stabit in loco sancto ejus?</p>	<p>P: Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord? * or who may stand in His holy place?</p>
<p>Innocens manibus et mundo corde, * qui non accepit in vano animam suam, nec juravit in dolo proximo suo.</p>	<p>All: He whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain, * nor swears deceitfully to his neighbor.</p>
<p>Hic accipiet benedictionem a Domino: * et misericordiam a Deo salutari suo.</p>	<p>P: He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, * a reward from God, his Savior.</p>
<p>Haec est generatio quaerentium eum, * quaerentium faciem Dei Jacob.</p>	<p>All: Such is the race that seeks for Him, * that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.</p>

Attollite portas principes vestras, et elevamini portae aeternales: * et introibit Rex gloriae.

P: Lift up, O gates, your lintels; reach up, you ancient portals, * that the king of glory may come in!

Quis est iste Rex gloriae? * Dominus fortis et potens: Dominus potens in praelio.

All: "Who is this king of glory?" * "The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle."

Attollite portas principes vestras, et elevamini portae: * et introibit Rex gloriae.

P: Lift up, O gates, your lintels; reach up, you ancient portals, * that the king of glory may come in!

Quis est iste Rex gloriae? * Dominus virtutum ipse est Rex gloriae.

All: "Who is this king of glory?" * "The Lord of hosts; He is the king of glory."

Gloria Patri.

P: Glory be to the Father.

All: As it was in the beginning.

Et repetitur Antiphona: Haec accipiet benedictionem a Domino, et misericordiam a Deo salutis suo: quia haec est generatio quaerentium Dominum.

After Psalm 23 the above antiphon is repeated: This woman shall receive a blessing from the Lord and mercy from God, her Savior; for she is one of the people who seek the Lord.

2. **Deinde porrigens ad manum mulieris extremam partem stolae, eam introducit in Ecclesiam, dicens:** Ingredere in templum Dei, adora Filium beatae Mariae Virginis, qui tibi foecunditatem tribuit prolis.

2. **Then the priest places the end of the stole hanging from his left shoulder in the hand of the woman and leads her into the church, saying:** Come into God's house. Adore the Son of the blessed Virgin Mary, and thank God who has given you the grace of motherhood.

3. **El ipsa ingressa genuflectit coram Altari, et orat, gratias agens Deo de beneficiis sibi collatis; et Sacerdos dicit:**

3. **The woman kneels before the altar, giving thanks to God for the benefits He has bestowed on her. The priest continues:**

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison. Pater noster. **secreto.**

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Our Father (**the rest inaudibly until:**)

S: Et ne nos inducas in tentationem.

P: And lead us not into temptation.

R: Sed libera nos a malo.

All: But deliver us from evil.

S: Salvam fac ancillam tuam Domine.

P: Save your servant.

R: Deus meus sperantem in te.

All: Who trusts in you, my God.

S: Mitte ei Domine auxilium de sancto.

P: Lord, send her aid from your holy place.

R: Et de Sion tuere eam.

S: Nihil proficiat inimicus in ea.

R: Et filius iniquitatis non apponat nocere ei.

S: Domine exaudi orationem meam.

R: Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

S: Dominus vobiscum.

R: Et cum spiritu tuo.

Oremus. Omnipotens sempiternus Deus, qui per beatæ Mariæ Virginis partum fidelium parientium dolores in gaudium vertisti: respice propitius super hanc famulam tuam, ad templum sanctum tuum pro gratiarum actione lætam accedentem, et præsta; ut post hanc vitam, ejusdem beatæ Mariæ meritis, et intercessione, ad æternæ beatitudinis gaudia cum prole sua pervenire mereatur. Per Christum Dominum nostrum.

R: Amen.

4. **Deinde illam aspergit iterum aqua benedicta in modum crucis, dicens:** Pax et benedictio Dei omnipotentis, Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus sancti, descendat super te, et maneat semper.

R: Amen.

All: And watch over her from Sion.

P: Let the enemy have no power over her.

All: And the son of iniquity be powerless to harm her.

P: Lord, heed my prayer.

All: And let my cry be heard by you.

P: The Lord be with you.

All: May He also be with you.

Let us pray. Almighty everlasting God, who by means of the blessed Virgin Mary's childbearing has given every Christian mother joy, even in her pains of bringing forth her child; look kindly on this servant of yours who has come in gladness to your holy dwelling to offer her thanks. And grant that after this life, through the merits and prayers of that same blessed Mary, she and her child may be deemed worthy of attaining the happiness of everlasting life; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

4. **The priest again sprinkles her with holy water, saying:** May the peace and blessing of almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come upon you and remain with you forever.

All: Amen.

5. **The blessing of a woman after childbirth ought to be given by the pastor, if he is requested to do so. But any priest may impart it in any church or public oratory, in which case he should notify the superior.**