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# BLESSINGS

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## *BLESSING OF HOLY WATER OUTSIDE MASS<sup>1</sup>*

On the basis of age-old custom, water is one of the signs that the Church often uses in blessing the faithful. Holy water reminds the faithful of Christ, who is given to us as the supreme divine blessing, who called himself the living water, and who, with water, established Baptism for our sake as the sacramental sign of the blessing that brings salvation.

The blessing of holy water usually takes place on Sunday, in keeping with the rite given in the Sacramentary. But when the blessing of water takes place outside Mass, the rite given here may be used by the priest or deacon. While maintaining the structure and chief elements of the rite, the celebrant should adapt the celebration to the circumstances of the place and the people involved.

## ORDER OF BLESSING

### *Introductory Rites*

The celebrant begins with these words:

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.**

All make the Sign of the Cross and reply:

**Amen.**

The celebrant greets those present, using the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from Sacred Scripture:

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1. ICEL, *Book of Blessings* (=BB), 1990.

May God, who through water and the Holy Spirit has given us a new birth in Christ, be with you all.

All make the following or some other suitable reply:

**And with your spirit.**

As circumstances suggest, the celebrant may prepare those present for the blessing in the following or similar words:

The blessing of this water reminds us of Christ, the living water, and of the sacrament of Baptism, in which we were born of water and the Holy Spirit. Whenever, therefore, we are sprinkled with this holy water or use it in blessing ourselves upon entering the church or at home, we thank God for his priceless gift to us and we ask for his help to keep us faithful to the sacrament we have received in faith.

**Reading of the Word of God**

A reader, another person present or the celebrant reads a short text of sacred Scripture, such as the following:

Listen to the words of the holy gospel  
according to John:

**7:37–39**

*Let anyone who is thirsty come to me.*

On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, "Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture says: 'Rivers of living water will flow from within him.'"

He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive. There was, of course, no Spirit yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

The reader concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

All respond:

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Alternative Readings:

You will draw water joyfully from  
the springs of salvation.

**Isaiah 12:1–6**

Oh, come to the water,  
all you who are thirsty.

**Isaiah 55:1–11**

She will give him the water  
of wisdom to drink.

**Sirach 15:1–6**

Jesus Christ came by water  
and blood.

**1 John 5:1–6**

The Lamb will lead them to  
the springs of living water.

**Revelation 7:13–17**

The river of life, rising from the  
throne of God and of the Lamb.

**Revelation 22:1–5**

You, too, are clean.

**John 13:3–15**

### Prayer of Blessing

After the reading, the celebrant says:

Let us pray.

All pray briefly in silence; then, with hands outstretched, the celebrant says the prayer of blessing:

Blessed are you, Lord, all-powerful God,  
who in Christ, the living water of salvation,  
blessed and transformed us.

Grant that when we are sprinkled with this water  
or make use of it,

we will be refreshed inwardly by the power  
of the Holy Spirit

and continue to walk in the new life  
we received at Baptism.

We ask this though Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

or:

Lord, holy Father,  
look with kindness on your children  
redeemed by your Son  
and born to a new life by water and the Holy Spirit.  
Grant that those who are sprinkled with this water  
may be renewed in body and spirit  
and may make a pure offering of their service to you.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

or the celebrant says:

O God, the Creator of all things,  
by water and the Holy Spirit  
you have given the universe its beauty  
and fashioned us in your own image.

**R. Bless and purify your Church.**

O Christ the Lord, from your pierced side  
you gave us your sacraments  
as fountains of salvation.

**R. Bless and purify your Church.**

O Holy Spirit, giver of life,  
from the baptismal font of the Church  
you have formed us into a new creation  
in the waters of rebirth.

**R. Bless and purify your Church.**

After the prayer of blessing, the celebrant sprinkles those present with holy water, as a suitable song is sung; as circumstances suggest, he may first say the following words:

Let this water call to mind our Baptism into Christ,  
who has redeemed us  
by his death and resurrection.

**R. Amen.**

## ***BLESSING OF AN ADVENT WREATH<sup>2</sup>***

The Advent wreath is made of four candles and a circle of branches. Before the first candle is lighted, the household gathers for this blessing.

All make the Sign of the Cross. The leader begins:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All respond:

**Who made heaven and earth.**

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

In the short days and long nights of Advent,  
we realize how we are always needing salvation  
by our God.

Around this wreath, we shall remember God's promise.

Then the Scripture is read:

Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah:

**9:1-2**

*The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light.*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing.

The reader concludes:

The word of the Lord.

All respond:

**Thanks be to God.**

After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession and in the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father.**

Then the leader invites:

Let us now pray for God's blessing upon us  
and upon this wreath.

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2. CHBP, 1988.

After a short silence, the leader prays:

Lord our God,  
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:  
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,  
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,  
he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,  
let your blessing come upon us  
as we light the candles of this wreath.  
May the wreath and its light  
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation;  
may he come quickly and not delay.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

### ***BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS CRECHE OR A MANGER SCENE<sup>3</sup>***

The manger scene has a special place near the Christmas tree or in another place where family members can reflect and pray during the Christmas season. It is blessed each year on Christmas eve or Christmas day.

All make the Sign of the Cross. The leader begins:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All respond:

**Who made heaven and earth.**

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

We are at the beginning of the days of Christmas.  
All through the season we will look on these images  
of sheep and cattle, of shepherds,  
of Mary and Joseph and Jesus.

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3. CHBP.



Then the Scripture is read:

Listen to the words of the holy gospel  
according to Luke:

2:1-7

*The birth of Jesus*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judaea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The reader concludes: The gospel of the Lord.

All respond: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The figures may be placed in the crèche. After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession and in the Lord's Prayer. Then the leader invites:

Pray now for God's blessing as we look on these figures.

After a short silence, the leader prays:

God of every nation and people,  
from the very beginning of creation  
you have made manifest your love.  
When our need for a Savior was great,  
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.  
To our lives he brings joy and peace,  
justice, mercy, and love.

Lord,  
bless all who look upon this manger;  
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus  
and raise our thoughts to him,

who is God-with-us and Savior of all,  
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

or:

God of Mary and Joseph, of shepherds and animals,  
bless us whenever we gaze on this manger scene.  
Through all the days of Christmas  
may these figures tell the story  
of how humans, angels, and animals  
found the Christ in this poor place.  
Fill our house with hospitality, joy,  
gentleness, and thanksgiving,  
and guide our steps in the way of peace.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

The leader says:

Let us bless the Lord.

All respond, making the Sign of the Cross:

**Thanks be to God.**

Then Christmas songs and carols are sung; for example:

It came upon a midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all  
From heaven's all-gracious King";  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife,  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong.  
And warring humankind hears not  
The tidings which they bring;  
O hush the noise and cease your strife  
And hear the angels sing.



## **BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE<sup>4</sup>**

When the tree has been prepared, the household gathers around it. All make the Sign of the Cross. The leader begins:

**Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

All respond:

**Now and for ever.**

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of all that is beautiful, all that is filled with the gentleness and the promise of God. It stands in our midst as a tree of light, that we might promise such beauty to one another and to our world. It stands like that tree of paradise that God made into the tree of life, the cross of Jesus.

Then the Scripture is read:

Listen to the words of the apostle Paul to Titus: **3:4-7**

*His own compassion saved us*

But when the kindness and generous love of God our Savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in the hope of eternal life.

The reader concludes:

**The word of the Lord.**

All respond:

**Thanks be to God.**

After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession and in the Lord's Prayer. Then the leader invites:

Let us now pray for God's blessing  
upon all who gather around this tree.

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4. CHBP.

After a short silence, the leader prays:

Lord our God,  
we praise you for the light of creation:  
the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.  
We praise you for the light of Israel:  
the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.  
We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:  
he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace,  
who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God,  
let your blessing come upon us  
as we illumine this tree.  
May the light and cheer it gives  
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.  
May all who delight in this tree  
come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

or:

God of all creation,  
we praise you for this tree  
which brings beauty and memories  
and the promise of life to our home.  
May your blessing be upon  
all who gather around this tree,  
all who keep the Christmas festival by its lights.  
We wait for the coming of the Christ,  
the days of everlasting justice and of peace.  
You are our God, living and reigning,  
for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

The lights of the tree are then turned on.

## **BLESSING OF A NEW HOME<sup>5</sup>**

When any of the faithful wish to mark their moving into a new home with a religious celebration, the parish priest (pastor) and his associates should gladly cooperate. The occasion provides a special opportunity for a gathering of the members of the community to mark the joyful event and to thank God, from whom all blessings come, for the gift of a new home.

The present order may be used by a priest or deacon. It may also be used by a lay person, who follows the rites and prayers designated for a lay minister. While maintaining the structure and chief elements of the rite, the minister should adapt the celebration to the circumstances of the place and the people involved.

There is to be no blessing of a new home unless those who will live in it are present.

### **Introductory Rites**

When the family members and their relatives and friends have gathered in a convenient place, the minister says:

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.**

*All make the Sign of the Cross and reply:*

**Amen.**

A minister who is a priest or deacon greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from sacred Scripture.

**Peace be with this house and with all who live here.**

*All make the following or some other suitable reply:*

**And with your spirit.**

*A lay minister uses the following greeting:*

**May the God whom we glorify with one heart and voice enable us, through the Spirit, to live in harmony as followers of Christ Jesus, now and for ever.**

**R. Amen.**

5. BB.

In the following or similar words, the minister prepares those present for the blessing.

When Christ took flesh through the Blessed Virgin Mary, he made his home with us. Let us now pray that he will enter this home and bless it with his presence. May he always be here with you, share in your joys, comfort you in your sorrows. Inspired by his teachings and example, seek to make your new home before all else a dwelling place of love, diffusing far and wide the goodness of Christ.

### Reading of the Word of God

A reader, another person present, or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture.

Listen to the words of the holy gospel  
according to Luke:

10:5-9

*Peace to this house.*

The Lord said to the seventy-two: "Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.'"

### Alternative Readings:

Lord, do not pass your servant by. **Genesis 18:1-10a**

Jesus went straight to Simon's house. **Mark 1:29-30**

Martha welcomed Jesus into her house. **Luke 10:38-42**

Today salvation has come to this house. **Luke 19:1-9**

Stay with us. **Luke 24:28-32**

As circumstances suggest, the following responsorial psalm or some other suitable song may be sung or said.

**R. Happy are those who fear the Lord. Psalm 112**

Happy the man who fears the Lord,  
 who greatly delights in his commands.  
 His posterity shall be mighty upon the earth;  
 the upright generation shall be blessed. **R.**  
 Wealth and riches shall be in his house;  
 his generosity shall endure for ever.  
 He dawns through the darkness,  
     a light for the upright;  
 he is gracious and merciful and just. **R.**  
 Well for the man who is gracious and lends,  
 who conducts his affairs with justice;  
 He shall never be moved;  
 the just man shall be in everlasting remembrance. **R.**  
 An evil report he shall not fear;  
 his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.  
 His heart is steadfast; he shall not fear  
 till he looks down upon his foes. **R.**  
 Lavishly he gives to the poor;  
 his generosity shall endure for ever;  
 his horn shall be exalted in glory. **R.**

**Alternative Responsorial Psalms:**

**Psalm 127:1, 2, 3–4, 5**

**R. The Lord will build a house for us.**

**Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–6a**

**R. See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.**

As circumstances suggest, the minister may give those present a brief explanation of the biblical text, so that they may understand through faith the meaning of the celebration.



## Intercessions

The intercessions are then said. The minister introduces them, and an assisting minister or someone else announces the intentions. From the following intentions, those best suited to the circumstances may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.

The minister says:

The Son of God, Lord of heaven and earth, made his home among us. With thankfulness and gladness let us call upon him, saying:

**R. Stay with us, Lord.**

or:

**R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Assisting minister:

Lord Jesus Christ, by your life with Mary and Joseph you sanctified the life of the home; dwell with us in our home, so that we may have you as our guest and honor you as our Head. (For this we pray:) **R.**

Assisting minister:

In you every dwelling grows into a holy temple; grant that those who live in this house may be built up together into the dwelling place of God in the Holy Spirit. (For this we pray:) **R.**

Assisting minister:

You taught your followers to build their houses upon solid rock; grant that the members of this family may hold fast to your teachings and, free of all discord, serve you with their whole heart.

(For this we pray:) **R.**

Assisting minister:

You had no place to lay your head, but in uncomplaining poverty you accepted the hospitality of your friends; grant that through our help people who are homeless may obtain decent housing.

(For this we pray:) **R.**



## Prayer of Blessing

A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched; a lay minister says the prayer with the hands joined.

Lord,

be close to your servants  
who move into this home (today)  
and ask for your blessing.

Be their shelter when they are at home,  
their companion when they are away,  
and their welcome guest when they return.

And at last receive them  
into the dwelling place you have prepared for them  
in your Father's house,  
where you live for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

After the prayer of blessing, the minister sprinkles those present and the new home with holy water and, as circumstances suggest, during the sprinkling may say:

Let this water call to mind our Baptism into Christ,  
who has redeemed us  
by his death and resurrection.

## Concluding Rite

The minister concludes the rite by saying:

May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts,  
and may the word of Christ in all its richness  
dwell in us,  
so that whatever we do in word and in work,  
we will do in the name of the Lord.

**R. Amen.**

It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song.

## ***BLESSING FOR A PLACE OF WORK***<sup>6</sup>

When a place of work is to be blessed, both those who labor there and those who share the fruit of that labor should be invited to the ceremony.

All make the Sign of the Cross. The leader begins:

Blessed be God, who has begun a good work in us.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord.

All respond:

**Now and for ever.**

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

Jesus showed us the dignity of labor. He was known as the carpenter's son, and he willingly worked with the tools of his trade. Through the labor of our hands, we bring God's blessing upon ourselves and others. Let us pray for all who will work here and for those who will share the fruit of their labor.

Then the Scripture is read:

Listen to the words of the apostle Paul  
to the Thessalonians:

**1 Thes 4:10–12**

We urge you, brothers [and sisters], to progress even more, and to aspire to live a tranquil life, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your [own] hands, as we instructed you, that you may conduct yourselves properly toward outsiders and not depend on anyone.

The reader concludes:

The word of the Lord.

All respond:

**Thanks be to God.**

After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession and in the Lord's Prayer. A cross or other symbol may then be revered with a kiss and put in a place of honor. The leader then speaks the prayer of blessing; one of the following may be used or adapted as needed.

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6. CHBP.

## OF AN OFFICE

O God, | in your wise providence  
you are glad to bless all human labor,  
the work of our hands and of our minds.  
Grant that all who plan and conduct business in this office  
may, through your guidance and support,  
come to right decisions and carry them out fairly.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## OF A SHOP OR FACTORY

God, our all-provident Father,  
you have placed the earth and its fruits under our care,  
so that by our labor we will endeavor  
to ensure that all share in the benefits of your creation.  
Bless all those who will use this building  
either as buyers or sellers,  
so that by respecting justice and charity  
they will see themselves as working for the common good  
and find joy in contributing to the progress  
of the earthly city.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

Then holy water may be sprinkled on the office, shop, or factory, and on the participants.

All make the Sign of the Cross, as the leader concludes:

May God, the Father of goodness,  
who commanded us to help one another  
as brothers and sisters,  
bless this building with his presence  
and look kindly on all who enter here.

**R. Amen.**

And may almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

**BLESSING OF TRAVELERS (SHORTER RITE)<sup>7</sup>**

The minister says: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All reply: **Who made heaven and earth.**

Someone reads a text of sacred Scripture, such as the following.

Listen to the words of the book of Tobit: **5:17-18**

[Tobit] called his son and said to him: "My son, prepare whatever you need for the journey, and set out with your kinsman. May God in heaven protect you on the way and bring you back to me safe and sound; and may his angel accompany you for safety, my son."

Then the minister says the prayer of blessing:

All-powerful and ever-living God,  
when Abraham left his own land  
and departed from his own people,  
you kept him safe all through his journey.  
Protect us, who also are your servants:  
walk by our side to help us;  
be our companion and our strength

(as we travel) on the road  
and our refuge in every adversity.  
Lead us, O Lord,  
so that we will reach our destination in safety  
and happily return to our homes.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

or:

May God bless you with every heavenly blessing  
and give you a safe journey;  
wherever life leads you,  
may you may find him there to protect you.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

The blessing may conclude with a song, such as Now Thank  
We All Our God.

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7. BB.

### **BLESSING OF A MOTHER BEFORE CHILDBIRTH (SHORT FORMULARY)<sup>8</sup>**

As circumstances suggest, a priest or deacon may use the following short blessing formulary:

God has brought gladness and light to the world  
through the Virgin Mary's delivery of her child.  
May Christ fill your heart with his holy joy  
and keep you and your baby safe from harm.  
In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Ry. Amen.**

### **BLESSING OF A MOTHER AFTER CHILDBIRTH (SHORT FORMULARY)<sup>9</sup>**

As circumstances suggest, a priest or deacon may use the following short blessing formulary:

May the Lord God almighty,  
who through the earthly birth of his own Son  
has filled the whole world with joy, so bless ✠ you  
that the child he has given you  
will always bring joy to your heart.

**Ry. Amen.**

### **BLESSING AND IMPOSITION WITH THE SCAPULAR OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**

(See p. 459.)

### **BLESSING AND THANKSGIVING AT MEALS**

(See p. 558.)

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8. BB.

9. BB.

## **BLESSING OF ROSARIES** **(SHORTER RITE)<sup>10</sup>**

To begin, the celebrant says:

Lord, show us your mercy and love.

All reply:

**And grant us your salvation.**

As circumstances suggest, the celebrant may begin with an explanation of the blessing.

Someone reads a text of sacred Scripture,  
such as the following.

**Lk 2:51b-52**

Mary, his mother, kept all these things in her heart.  
And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor  
before God and man.

or:

**Acts 1:14**

All these devoted themselves with one accord to  
prayer, together with some women and Mary, the  
mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

With his hands outstretched, the celebrant says the prayer of  
blessing:

Blessed be our God and Father,  
who has given us the mysteries of his Son  
to be pondered with devotion  
and celebrated with faith.

May he grant us, his faithful people,  
that by praying the rosary we may,  
with Mary, the Mother of Jesus,  
seek to keep his joys, sorrows,  
and glories in our minds and hearts.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

or:

In memory of the mysteries  
of the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord

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10. BB.



and in honor of the Virgin Mary,  
 Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church,  
 may those who devoutly use this rosary  
 to pray be blessed,  
 in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠  
 and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

### ***BLESSING OF ROSARIES (SHORT FORMULARY)***

In special circumstances, a priest or deacon may use the following short blessing formulary:

May this rosary and the one who uses it be blessed,  
 in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠  
 and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

### ***BLESSING OF RELIGIOUS ARTICLES (SHORT FORMULARY)<sup>11</sup>***

To be used to bless medals, small crucifixes, statues, or pictures that will be displayed elsewhere than in a church or chapel; scapulars, rosaries, and other articles used for religious devotions.

In special circumstances, a priest or deacon may use the following short blessing formulary.

May this (name of article)  
 and the one who uses it be blessed,  
 in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠  
 and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

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11. BB.

## **BLESSING OF THE VARIOUS MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION (SHORTER RITE)<sup>12</sup>**

At the beginning of the celebration, the minister says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All reply:

**Who made heaven and earth.**

Someone reads a text of sacred Scripture, such as the following.

Listen to the words of the holy gospel  
according to John:

**14:6**

Jesus said to Thomas: "I am the way and the truth  
and the life. No one comes to the Father except  
through me."

### **Prayer of Blessing**

A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing  
with hands outstretched; a lay minister says the prayer  
with the hands joined.

All-powerful God,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
in the rich depths of your wisdom  
you have empowered us to produce great and  
beautiful works.

Grant, we pray, that those who use this vehicle  
may travel safely, with care  
for the safety of others.

Whether they travel for business or pleasure,  
let them always find Christ  
to be the companion of their journey,  
who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

As circumstances suggest, the minister may sprinkle those  
present and the vehicle with holy water.

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12. BB.