

Blessing for a Home at Epiphany

Matthew writes that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. “On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother” (Matt. 2:10-11). In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.

On the Twelfth Night (January 5), Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6), or another day during the time after Epiphany you may gather to bless your home. Someone may lead the greeting and blessing, while another person may read the scripture passage. Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 22. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means “Christ, bless this house,” or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar). The last number (21 here) is the new year.

Greeting: May peace be to this house and to all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (Proverbs 24:3-4)

Reading: As we prepare to ask God’s blessing on this household, let us listen to the words of scripture.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being, and the life was the light of all people. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1:1-4, 14, 16)

Inscription: This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance:

20 + C M B + 22 or like on this picture →

Write the appropriate character while speaking the text:

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar,

followed the star of God’s Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand

22 and twenty-two years ago.

✠ Christ, bless this house,

✠ and remain with us throughout the new year.



Prayer of Blessing: O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adapted from *Come, Lord Jesus: Devotions for the Home* (Augsburg Fortress, 1996). See also “Blessing for a Home” in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Pastoral Care*, pp. 337–353. Copyright © 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989