

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Bless *this* Home  
and all *who enter*

A decorative flourish consisting of a black vine with small leaves and a central red heart.

Litany for the Blessing of our Living Spaces  
to be used on Palm Sunday as your procession

Everything in this litany can be easily modified to fit all our unique living spaces and the number of humans/pets that live in our homes. Make it fit you, and take plenty of time to add your own thoughts, especially with children. Do whatever feels natural and right for children so that it has meaning to them.

We are hopeful that beginning with this ritual that helps us see all our spaces as sacred will lead to creating and utilizing a home altar (if you do not yet have one) and making it seem both a natural and holy part of the place you call home. This is a step towards living deeply into life's "ordinary holiness" that can be a gift of grace in this uncertain time in our world.

Finally, the more people (as available) who act as the Reader, the better. It will be moving and real if shared among those present as is possible. If young children need simplified language, do whatever works for them.

Before beginning, encourage those present to carry an object that has meaning to them during the litany as you move from room to room. Suggestions are candles, lit or unlit, a seashell, a Bible or Prayer Book, a piece of art, a scarf or shawl; or for children, a beloved stuffed animal, toy or blanket. If pets are nearby and it's feasible, having them join the "procession" is wonderful. If singing or chanting or ringing bells feels natural at any time, be encouraged to incorporate it!

You may use this Litany for Blessing our Living Spaces as your procession on Palm Sunday or anytime when you or others wish to intentionally invite God's blessings of love and joy into your home.

**Gather in a central place in your living space.**

**Reader** God's peace and love be always in the hearts of those who live here.

**All** And with our whole world.

**Reader** During this time of staying home and staying safe, let us remember that our homes are sacred spaces, places where we come to know God more deeply. Especially now, {during these days of Holy Week and Easter}, we pray that we will find you, God, in our ordinary lives as we turn our hearts and souls ever closer towards the everlasting truth of your Resurrection.

**All** May it be so. Amen!

**The processional moves to the next space.**

*(Note- please move through your living space in whatever way works best for your home and whomever lives there. The words included for each space are just examples- be encouraged to create your own that fit your own living spaces.)*

**Reader** Here in this kitchen/dining room, Lord, we seek your presence among us as we prepare the food that nourishes our bodies and we ask your blessings on the meals we eat. In each humble task may we find you, God. May the living we do here be done in God's name.

*Allow time for those gathered to add their own thoughts.*

**All** May it be so. Amen!

**The processional moves to the next space.**

**Reader**

In our living room/family room, God, be with us as we play, do crafts, read and relax. May both the work and the play that happens in this room be a blessing to you, God. May the living we do here be done in God's name.

*Allow time for those gathered to add their own thoughts.*

**All**

May it be so. Amen!

**The processional moves to the next space.**

**Reader**

In our bedrooms, God, may we deeply rest and wake refreshed for each new day. May our nights be quiet, filled with peace and stillness and the awareness of your presence. May the living we do here be done in God's name.

*Allow time for those gathered to add their own thoughts.*

**All**

May it be so. Amen!

**The processional moves to the next space.**

**Reader**

In our bathrooms, God, may we be especially grateful for the blessing of hot and cold running water to wash our bodies and brush our teeth. May we remember here to pray for those in our world who do not have a space like this. May the living we do here be done in God's name.

*Allow time for those gathered to add their own thoughts.*

**All**

May it be so. Amen!

**The processional moves to the next space.**

**Reader**

In our laundry rooms/laundry spaces may we be grateful for the simple tasks we do here so that we may wear clean clothes. We ask, God, that you help us to remember here to be thankful both for our clothing and a place where we can wash it and fold it. May the living we do here be done in God's name.

*Allow time for those gathered to add their own thoughts.*

**All**

May it be so. Amen!

**The processional moves to the next space.**

**Reader**

In our garages/porches/sunrooms/patios/decks/yards, may we be grateful for the times when we do chores or hobbies here and times when we relax, both alone and with others. May we feel your nearness, God, as we savor the simple joys of ordinary life that happen in these places. May the living we do here be done in God's name.

*Allow time for those gathered to add their own thoughts.*

**All**

May it be so. Amen!

*When you have gathered in all your spaces and blessed God in each, return to the place where you began, for the sense of coming “full circle” and embracing your home in its wholeness.*

**Reader**            Thanks be to God for this place I/we call home.

**All**                 I am grateful for this place. We thank you, gracious and holy God, for all the good things you give us and this chance to remember we may find and serve you anywhere. We are thankful for these living spaces where we may shelter in safety, holding in prayer all in our world who do not have such spaces. We ask your steadfast mercy and love upon us all as we offer our longings and blessings, our joys and our hurt places to you, knowing that you hold them all. Blessed are you, God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, in this place and in all time, from this day forth and forever, Amen.

*Written by Dina Carter Ishler*