



Living the Resurrection

Helping congregations thrive

Thank you! Yes!

Thanksgiving and Blessing of a home as we move away.

For all that has been, Thank you!

For all that is to come, Yes!

Dag Hammarskjold

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who spreads forth the heavens like a tent,
who shelters our lives,
who comes to make a home with us.

Amen.

Peace to this home.

A reading from Proverbs: 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)

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, as we prepare to leave this home, we pause to thank you for all it meant to us, for all that happened between these walls. We pray that our new place in _____ will become home to us and that this house will be treasured by _____.

And so, we say: For all that has been, thanks! For all that is to come, Yes! Amen

Driveway/Front Door

A reading from the Psalms The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore. (Psalm 121:8)

On this driveway we welcomed trick or treaters, and neighbors passing by. We washed cars and pulled weeds. In this front yard birds bathed, and herbs grew. Through this door we welcomed friends and family.

(other memories may be shared)

And so we say: For all that has been, thanks! for all that is to come, Yes! Amen.

Living Room

A reading from Ecclesiastes: So I commend enjoyment, for there is nothing better for people under the sun than to eat, and drink, and enjoy themselves, for this will go with them in their toil through the days of life that God gives them under the sun. (*Ecclesiastes 8:15*)

This room was a place of laughter and conversation. It's where relationships deepened as we lived life with friends and family. From this window we watched as birds fluttered in the bath, and dogs drank from the basin. It was a comfortable place to read and journal in the passing sunlight.

(other memories may be shared)

And so we say: For all that has been, thanks! For all that is to come, Yes! Amen.

Dining Room

A reading from the Psalms: The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season. You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (*Psalms 145:15-16*)

This table made room for four, or fourteen. Christmas and New Years Day buffets, Thanksgiving and Easter meals, birthdays and other special days were all celebrated here. We shared food and drink and the comfort of friendships that grew through the years together.

(other memories may be shared)

And so we say: For all that has been, thanks! For all that is to come, Yes! Amen.

Kitchen and Eating Area

A reading from John: When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." (*John 21: 9, 12*)

A reading from Mark: You give them something to eat. (*Mark 6:37*)

Whether meals were thrown together, or well prepared, they nourished our bodies as the companionship of family fed our spirits. This table saw many a game played on its surface, friendly and fierce, always loud whether with excitement or complaint.

(other memories may be shared)

And so, we say: For all that has been, thanks! For all that is to come, Yes! Amen

Family Room

A reading from Genesis: Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. (*Genesis 18:4*).

The end of the day we rested, read, or watched TV on these couches. This was a place to focus on a story that entertained or informed, or to watch a favorite sports team do their thing. At one time it was a place of music, where our daughter learned the piano and I tried to remember pieces I'd known at her age. There were at least a couple of times when the guitar accompanied us and Taylor Swift's , "stay, stay, stay" echoed off the walls.

(other memories may be shared)

And so we say: For all that has been, thanks! For all that is to come, Yes! Amen

Office

A reading from Ezra: For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to do it and to teach the statutes and ordinances in Israel. (*Ezra 7:10*)

This room was transformed from a bedroom for guests, where grandparents and travelers from other places found rest, to a pandemic inspired office. Meetings were zoomed and relationships maintained.

(other memories may be shared)

And so we say: For all that has been, thanks! For all that is to come, Yes! Amen.

Laundry Room

A reading from Exodus: So Moses went down from the mountain to the people. He consecrated the people, and they washed their clothes. (*Exodus 19:14*)

Not a very exciting room, but a necessary and functional one. Clothes arrived dirty and left clean. People passed through it to get to and from the garage. It served its functions well.

(other memories may be shared)

And so we say: For all that has been, thanks! For all that is to come, Yes! Amen.

Landing upstairs/ office

A reading from Proverbs: To get wisdom is to love oneself; to keep understanding is to prosper. (*Proverbs 19:8*)

The kids studied here first, at a desk with a desk top computer. Later, it became the family office, holding all of our very important papers. Beginning with the pandemic it became an office and game center.

(other memories may be shared)

And so we say: For all that has been, thanks! For all that is to come, Yes! Amen.

Bedroom

A reading from the Psalms: In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure. (*Psalms 4:8*)

For 9 years, this was where our daughter slept, played with her dog and entertained her friends. For another 9 years it was where she slept when she came “home” to us. It was always her room, painted in her colors as she prepared for 7th grade. Dreams were dreamed here, and some came true.

(other memories may be shared)

And so we say: For all that has been, thanks! For all that is to come, Yes! Amen.

All Bathrooms

O God, you revealed yourself in human flesh, making holy what is ordinary and earthly. Bless us as we care for our ordinary, marvelous bodies. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

In these upstairs bathrooms preparations were made for the day, or for the night. In the downstairs bath, hands washed for meals and water sprayed beyond the bounds of the sink and got a few guests wet where they didn’t intend.

(other memories may be shared)

And so we say: For all that has been, thanks! For all that is to come, Yes! Amen.

Bedroom

A reading from the Psalms: The LORD watches over you; God will not fall asleep. (*Psalms 121:5, 3*)

This room was pink when we arrived, which is why our son claimed it. Later we painted it a couple of shades of blue but left the closet pink. He used push pins to plaster his MCAT notes all over the walls, so I had to use spackle to get all the wholes out when the room needed to become more adult. It was our son’s room for six years and continued to hold him on his return trips.

(other memories may be shared)

And so, we say: For all that has been, thanks! For all that is to come, Yes! Amen.

Primary Bedroom

A reading from Colossians: Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. (*Colossians 3:14-15*)

These walls heard private conversations, out of hearing of the kids, kind words, and not so kind. There were loving embraces, emotional and physical intimacy that gave us strength to travel through rough patches.

(other memories may be shared)

And so, we say: For all that has been, thanks! For all that is to come, Yes! Amen.

Upstairs Deck

The “Boston Legal” deck we rarely remembered to use. A place to run to for sunset views. A place to read. A way to secretly overhear the kids’ gatherings on the patio below.

(other memories may be shared)

And so we say: For all that has been, thanks! For all that is to come, Yes! Amen.

Backyard

A reading from Job: Ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In God’s hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being. *(Job 12:7-10)*

In this yard our kids played in the fountain, the dog ran around and only reluctantly stayed in her kennel, fruit trees supplied us with enough lemons, grapefruit, and oranges to share with almost everyone we knew. The sitting area was a place of rest after a long Sunday morning, or a comfy spot to hang out with friends, often with champagne. The wisteria blooms were stunning, and a mess. The pandemic made the patio the best spot for holiday gatherings.

(other memories may be shared)

And so we say: For all that has been, thanks! For all that is to come, Yes! Amen.

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, there is so much to be thankful for as we look back on ___years in this home. Thank you for every minute of it, and every emotion they contained. We felt You with us through it all. In the power of your Spirit, stay with _____ as you were with us, and also go with us to _____. Make our new place a home and bless our time there as you have blessed our time here. In your Son’s name we pray, Amen.

Greeting and most scripture suggestions come from Evangelical Lutheran Worship. 2006. *Blessing for a Home*. Augsburg Fortress: Minneapolis, MN