



## Blessing for a Graduate

**Setting** Prepare an environment that connotes the idea of family and friends support; consider the living room or family room. A flowering plant and symbols of the years of education of the graduate may be used.

### Opening Song

Choose a song meaningful for the graduate, to be sung or played, that speaks of change, new beginnings, or values in life.

### Opening Prayer

**Leader** O God, Giver of All Life, you have created us as a people whose lives are enriched through growth, through change, through new beginnings. We come together today to celebrate the changes and new beginnings in the life of \_\_\_\_\_(name) who has completed an important educational step in life.

We celebrate the gifts of \_\_\_\_\_(name) that have been shared and developed through the support of family, friends, and teachers. We are grateful for your presence of love through these years.

We ask, in this time of celebration, that your blessing of wisdom, hope, and enthusiasm for the future will strengthen and uphold \_\_\_\_\_(name) in the years of continued growth ahead. With faith in your love and care we pray.

All Amen.

### Reading

*Micah 6:1-2, 6, 8*

Hear, then, what Yahweh says:

Arise, present your plea before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice!

With what shall I come before the mighty One,  
and bow before God most High?

You have been told, O my People, what is good,  
and what God requires of you:

Only to do the right and love goodness,  
and to walk humbly with your God.

*Response Song* “We Are Called” by David Haas (GIA)

### Prayer for All Graduates

**Leader** We remember this day all graduates and ask God to bless them and keep them faithful in living out God’s way of justice and love. O God of all life: In their baptism you blessed our sons and daughters with your spirit, promised your aid, and called them into discipleship. For this everlasting blessing,

*(All) We give you thanks, O God.*

**Leader** We pray now for those entering new lives after graduation, praising you for their gifts and asking you for your continued blessing. For what you have given and what you shall give,

*(All) We give you thanks, O God.*

**Leader** For those graduating into lives of full time employment: Lead them to work that honors you, benefits the world’s need, and ennobles their own souls. God of daily labor,

*(All) Bless our prayer.*

**Leader** For those continuing their study: As their knowledge grows, increase also its wise and loving use that they, too, might serve you through their learning. God of all truth and understanding,

*(All) Bless our prayer.*

**Leader** For those who have yet to perceive where life may turn next: Grant them patience with the struggle, hope for the future and confidence that you will guide them well. God of hope,

*(All) Bless our prayer.*

**Leader** Protect our graduates from any enticement that may tempt and lead to harm. Keep them from the cynicism and despair that may follow disappoint-



ment and failure. Embrace mistakes with repentance and misfortunes with restoration, always making clear your word of constant and abundant love. God of mercy,

*(All) Bless our prayer.*

*Leader* Help parents and others who share concern for the dangers and decisions that will be faced beyond their caring eyes. Reassure them where they



have done their best and heal their regrets as they entrust their sons and daughters to your care. God of grace,

*(All) Bless our prayer.*

*Leader* We commend our graduating sisters and brothers to you, O God. By your unceasing Spirit, may their baptismal light so shine before others

that they may see their good works and glorify you in heaven on earth.

*(All) Amen.*

### **Affirmation of Graduate**

*Take time for each person in the group to address the graduate in affirmation.*

*Response of All after each gift is named:*

We give thanks to you, O God, for this gift shared by \_\_\_\_\_(name).



### **Prayer of Blessing**

*Leader* We ask you \_\_\_\_\_(name) to stand as we send you forth with our love and blessing.

*(If possible, all present may be invited to stand around the graduate with arms extended in blessing or hands upon the one being blessed.)*

O God, Giver and Sustainer of all life, we ask your blessing upon \_\_\_\_\_(name) as she/he stands at the threshold of a new adventure. In her/his living and loving may \_\_\_\_\_(name) always remember that you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Give her/him the wisdom to seek your way and to proclaim your peace and justice, that you may be praised and that through the life of \_\_\_\_\_(name) our world may become closer to the designs of your bountiful and loving plans.

May God bless you \_\_\_\_\_(name) and keep you safe through the the journey of this life until you see the smile of God's love welcoming you to your eternal home.

*(All) Amen.*

### **Closing**

*Greet the graduate and each other with a sign of peace. Sing the refrain from "We Are Called."*

