



Blessing the Bibles in the Pews

Introduction

Many congregations have Bibles in their pews or chair racks. Consider holding a special recognition or celebration of these Bibles. You want to do this blessing if you have recently purchased new Bibles for your sanctuary. This celebration offers an opportunity to draw the attention of worshippers to the presence of the Bibles in the sanctuary and to encourage them to make use of these Bibles during their personal preparation for worship. It is a time to uplift the Word in their midst.

Preparation

Check your pews or chair racks to make sure the Bibles are actually there and in good condition. You may want to print an announcement in the bulletin several weeks in advance of the celebration to encourage people to take note of the presence of the Bibles. This can also act as a subtle reminder that the Bibles can be used during personal preparation for worship. They're there for a reason!

Consider printing this liturgy in the bulletin/worship folder as a take-home piece for those who want to refer to it later.

Litany

Leader: Today we celebrate the power and presence of God's Word in our midst. The Bibles in the pews (or chair racks) are symbols that God is the Word made flesh who came to live among us. More importantly, it is through the Bible that we come to learn of the story of God's love for us and for all people. Let us celebrate the Bibles in our midst, even as we celebrate the gift of faith nurtured through God's Word and sacrament.

Leader: Today we celebrate the gift of God's Word in our midst.

People: We give you thanks, O God, for your Word that daily lights our way.

Leader: It is through hearing God's Word that we grow in faith.

People: We give you thanks, O God, for your Word that daily lights our way.

Leader: It is through sharing God's Word that we spread the faith.

People: We give you thanks, O God, for your Word that daily lights our way.

Leader: We raise the Bibles in the pews/chair racks now as we acknowledge the presence of your life-changing Word.

People: We give you thanks, O God, for your Word that daily lights our way.

Leader: Empower us to turn to your Word in times of sadness, joy, confusion, pain, and challenge.

People: We give you thanks, O God, for your Word that daily lights our way.

Leader: Renew our faith as we turn to your Word daily.

People: We give you thanks, O God, for your Word that daily lights our way.

Leader: We celebrate the presence of your Word in our lives. May we turn to that Word and be strengthened by it.

People: We give you thanks, O God, for your Word that daily lights our way. Amen.

Leader: This day we are called to remember the presence of God's Word and the Bibles in the pews/chair racks. Remember to use these Bibles as you prepare for worship and in times of questioning and challenge in your life. It is God's gift to us as guidance for all times in our lives.