

## Blessing of the Chalk

*Presider* Our help is in the name of the Lord.

*People* **Who made heaven and earth.**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray

Bless, + O Lord God, this creature chalk to render it helpful to people. Grant that they who use it in faith and with it inscribe upon the entrance of their homes the names of your saints, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, may through their merits and intercession enjoy health of body and protection of soul. Through Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

**O**n Epiphany Day (January 6) Episcopalians, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians and Roman Catholics chalk their doors with 20 † C † M † B † 25. The numbers refer "to the calendar year (2024) the crosses stand for Christ; and the letters have a two-fold significance: C, M and B are the initials for the traditional names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar), but they are also an abbreviation of the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means, May Christ bless this house." This Epiphany Ritual represents the hospitality of the Holy Family to the Magi, which is another way of saying; All are welcome here! and it serves as a house blessing to invite the presence of God into one's home.

20 † C † M † B † 25

Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God, we ask you to hear us and send your holy angels from heaven to guard and cherish, protect and visit, and evermore defend all who dwell in this home. May God protect my family, friends and all who enter here, and I place this mark over my door as a reminder to that our home is truly the house of the Lord. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**