Introduction: (by the celebrant)

Our heavenly Father blesses his people with the gift of the Holy Scriptures. Through the work of prophets and sages, poets and apostles, God inspired these words to be written for our benefit. As Luke tells us in his Gospel:

“When [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’ All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth.” (Luke 4:16-22, NRSV)
Today we bring an offering to God. We ask God to receive these Bibles entrusted to us in our homes and wherever we carry them in our daily ministries. We ask God to bless these books and ask the Holy Spirit to guide our prayerful reading and study of them. We believe that God still speaks to us through the Bible.

Please rise with your Bible. Let us lift these Bibles before God and pray together, responding, “Your mercy is great.”

Gracious One, we hold before you our Holy Bibles. May they be instruments for your Word to guide our lives, inspire our service, enliven our praise, and strengthen our trust in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When we are tempted to twist your words to satisfy our own desires, recall us to obedience to your will, as revealed in these Scriptures and lived by your Holy Church. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw us daily to listen and to live by your Word, that you may mold us for service the way a potter shapes clay into vessels. Then use us to bring you glory in all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We thank you, O God, for the gift of your Scriptures, and praise you for generously blessing us through your Word in speech and text; through your Son, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

Amen.  (The priest makes the sign of the cross at this final blessing.)