

Let us Celebrate Christmas

Blessing for Christmas

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe: we turn to you in prayer and ask you to bless us and this food you have given us, as we celebrate your Son's birth for he is our Wonder Counsellor, Mighty God, and Prince of Peace. Help us to be generous toward others, and to work with them so that they too may eat well.

Loving Father, may we who celebrate around this table on earth know the joy of feasting in your Kingdom. We offer you all praise and thanks through Jesus Christ your Son, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Blessing of a Manger

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we pause to bless this Christmas manger scene. The practice of erecting such mangers was begun by Saint Francis of Assisi as a means to set forth the message of Christmas.

When we look upon these figures, the Christmas gospel comes alive and we are moved to rejoice in the mystery of the incarnation of the Son of God. God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Merry Christmas, in so many ways....



Zalig Kerstfeast
Joyeux Noel
Frohliche Weihnachten
Buone Teste NataCizie
Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia
Nollaig Chridheil dhuibh
Feliz Navidad
Z Rizdvom Khiystovym
Chu'c Mung Giang Sinh
Maligayang Pasko!
TeCiz NataC
souksan van Christmas
Boldog Karacsonyt



Prejeme Vam Vesele Vanoce a stastny Novy Rok

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

A family gathers around a decorated table set for dinner.
On the table, there is a candle and the Holy Bible.
All stand. A family member lights the candle, saying:

Leader: The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.



Leader: In this solemn moment, we praise God, our Father, for the holy night in which His Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary. Let us recall this event described in the Gospel:



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Leader: United in love, let us join in praying the Lord's Prayer:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven...

Leader: Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ, let us offer to God our family and friends, our neighbours, guests, and all who are lonely and sick.

All: Hail Mary, full of grace...

Leader: God our Father, you have made this Holy Night shine with the light of the true light of your Son. Help us to shine with the splendor of your light in our daily conduct. Lord Jesus Christ, you came to us as a child and sanctified family life. Be with us this evening and always. We thank you for this wonderful food and ask you to bless those who have prepared it for us. As we enjoy this precious time together, may we celebrate the love and goodness you give us each day. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

BLESSING AND SHARING OF THE CHRISTMAS WAFER (OPŁATEK)

We thank you Lord for this Bread, the *Oplatek*,
which has brought us together at the table,
just as we gather around your altar,

when by the power of Your Word it becomes Your Body.

BLESS + US AND + THESE + WAFERS

WHICH WE ARE ABOUT TO SHARE

IN THE ANCIENT TRADITION OF OUR ANCESTORS.

