

Thanksgiving Day – Order of a Family Meal Prayer

(Before praying choose a leader and a reader.)

HYMN: *Now Thank We All Our God*

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| 1. Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today. | And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next. |
| 2. Oh, may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us; | 3. All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven:
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore!
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore. |

Text: Ecclus.50:22-24, Martin Rinckart, 1636; Translated by: Catherine Winkworth, 1858;
Composer: Johann Crueger, 1648; Tune: "Nun danket alle Gott"

SIGN OF THE CROSS

OPENING PRAYER *(This may be prayed by a chosen leader or by all together at table.)*

Let us pray.

(Keep a moment of silent prayer.)

God and Father of all gifts,
we praise you, the source of all we have and are.
On this Thanksgiving Day we come before you with gratitude.
Teach us to acknowledge always
the many good things your infinite love has given us.
Open our hearts in concern for our sisters and brothers
so that we may share your gifts in loving service.

We ask this through our lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever.

Amen.

WORD OF GOD

Leader: Let us listen attentively to God speak to us in the Word.

Reader: A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians (Col 3:12-17)

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,
bearing with one another and forgiving one another,
if one has a grievance against another;
as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.
And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,
the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another,
singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.
And whatever you do, in word or in deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

LITANY OF THANKS *(Let each person gathered around the table be given an opportunity to name one or two things that they are thankful for on this Thanksgiving Day and let everyone respond to each item with, THANKS BE TO GOD! As each person completes their turn let them break a piece from the blessed loaf from church and pass the loaf on to the next person.)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father...

CONCLUDING PRAYER *(Prayed by a leader or altogether.)*

All-powerful and ever-living God,
you have no need of our praise
yet our desire to thank you is itself your gift.

Our prayer of thanksgiving adds nothings to your greatness,
but makes us grow in your grace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives forever and ever.
Amen.

SIGN OF THE CROSS