

FEAST OF THANKSGIVING

the family stands in prayerful silence around their table upon which there are unlighted candles. After a few moments, a member of the family begins:

Come, let us welcome the Feast of Thanksgiving with joy and with light. Light is the symbol of the divine. The Lord is our light and our salvation. May the light of gratitude burn brightly in our hearts, and around this table, not only on the feast of Thanksgiving, but at all our meals.

Candle or candles are lite on the table

In the silence of our hearts, let each of us give thanks for the many gifts that are ours. *pause for silent reflection*

Let us also be mindful of those today who are without food and a home. *pause*

And let us remember those whom we love who are not now present at our table. *pause*

Lord of Gifts, from your holy heart has come a flood of gifts to us. With uplifted hearts, we have gathered around this table to thank you with prayer and the worship of feasting.

We are grateful not only for the gift of life itself, but all the gifts of friendship, love, devotion, and forgiveness that we have shared.

On this feast of giving thanks, Lord God, we thank You for showing us how to return thanks by lives of service, by deeds of hospitality, by kindness to a stranger and by concern for each other.

We are most grateful, this feast day, for the way You, our hidden God, have become visible to us in one another, in countless daily gifts and in the marvels of creation.

Come Lord of Gifts and bless our table and all the food of this feast. Let us thank the Lord today and all days! Amen!

All toast: Happy Thanksgiving.



THANKSGIVING TABLE PRAYER

(brief form)



Lord God,
our hearts are crowded with gratitude as we celebrate the feast of Thanksgiving.

We have come to this our feasting table with great joy and eagerness, for we are profoundly grateful to You, our God, for all that we have been given.

We pause now, and in silent prayer, do thank You for the great generosity of Your gifts.

pause for silent reflection

We also thank one another for gifts –

especially for the gifts of love and affection that we have freely shared.

We are thankful

for all who are present at this our feast (names of guests may be mentioned)

as well as for those who have labored in love in order to bring this dinner to our table.

May You, our God, bless this Thanksgiving feast and all of us who shall share it in Your holy name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen +