

# Church Begins at Home

## Advent Table Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, the One who is, who was, and who is to come. At this table you fill us with good things. May these gifts strengthen us to share with the hungry and all those in need, as we wait and watch for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## A Morning Prayer

O Lord, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day; preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome in adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## An Evening Prayer

Gracious Lord, we give you thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive; the day is now past and we commit it to you. We entrust to you the night; we rest in surety, for you are our help, and you neither slumber nor sleep. Amen

## An Order for Personal/ Family Devotions in Advent

If you have an Advent wreath (any four candles will do), light the number of candles for each week of Advent (one the first week, two the second, etc.) After lighting the candle(s), pray the "Blessing of the Advent Wreath" and read or sing the hymn verse for the week (both are found on the sheet with the readings).



### SCRIPTURE READING

The scripture readings may be read silently for personal reflection or out loud when more than one is present. The privilege of reading the Word of God may be shared from day to day. After the reading, you might silently reflect on the reading for a time, or let each person present share one thought or idea the reading brought to mind.

### PRAYER

**God of all wisdom, our hearts yearn for the warmth of your love, and our minds search for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior, and strengthen us to grow in love. At the dawn of his coming may we rejoice in his presence and welcome the light of his truth. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

You may then include prayers for others and ourselves. These might include prayers for:

- the whole Christian Church around the world, including St. Barnabas' companion congregations: St. Paul and Redeemer in Minneapolis and Church of the Messiah in Hong, Nigeria
- the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and our bishops, Elizabeth Eaton and Ann Svennungsen
- our St. Barnabas community and ministry staff
- our national, state, and local government officials
- those who suffer or are in need
- our family and friends

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**



## A Table Prayer

With shepherds and angels, we sing: Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth. With Mary and Joseph we praise you, O God, for Christ, the Word made flesh. With joyful hearts we offer you thanks for the gifts that grace this table. Strengthen us with this food, that we may be witnesses to the light shining in darkness. We ask this in the name of our Savior, Christ the Lord.  
Amen

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## Prayers of Blessing

### Blessing of Christmas Gifts

Blessed be your name, O God. You are the source of every blessing. From your hand we receive the good gifts of life, health, and salvation. As we give and receive these presents, bless us with hearts thankful for the gift of your Son and lead us to share from our abundance with the poor and needy. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

### For the New Year

O God, you have been our help in ages past, our hope for years to come. As we welcome this new year, bless us with peace and fill us with a spirit of thanksgiving. Illumine our days with the light of Christ and lead us on the path of life until we see you in our heavenly home. Amen

## An Order for Personal/ Family Devotions

The Twelve Days of Christmas  
(Dec. 25-Jan. 5)

*Some find it helpful to light a single candle when having devotions. You may make the sign of the cross and say:*

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

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### VERSE FOR THE WEEK

*The "verse of the week" comes from one of the readings at Sunday worship. Speak the words out loud, that these words of scripture might become part of you.*

### PRAYER

**Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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