

BLESSINGS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Use this reading and blessing when you first light the tree and whenever you gather at the tree for Christmas prayer

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord, for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the people with his truth.

Psalm 96:11-13

Be praised, O God, for the blessings around us that point to you.
Be praised, O God, for the signs of this holy season that awaken in us wonder.
Praise for the steadfast green of this tree, like your love, enduring all seasons.
Praise for the light that illumines our darkness, like Christ, who brings light to the world.
Join our voices with those of the trees and all of creation who sing at your coming:
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Amen

BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY SCENE

Use this blessing when figures are added to the nativity scene throughout the days of Christmas and on the Epiphany.

O Lord our God,
with Mary and Joseph,
angels and shepherds,
and the animals of the stable,
we gather around your Son, born for us.
Bless us with your holy presence
and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell.
Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world,
for he is our light and salvation.
Glory in heaven and peace on earth,
now and forever.
Amen

BLESSING OF THE GIFTS

Use this blessing before you open 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

TABLE PRAYER

O God of wonder,
the birth of your Son fills the world with joy.
With thanks and praise we bless you
for Christ's presence among us at this table.
May our Christmas feast nourish us,
that sharing your gifts,
all creation may sing the angels' song of peace and goodwill.
Amen

BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR

Use this blessing on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day

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.
Fill our days with the light of Christ
and lead us on the path of life
until we see you in our heavenly home.
You live and reign forever and ever.
Amen