

**THANKSGIVING PRAYERS**

**A SIMPLE PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on my life. You have provided me with more than I could ever have imagined. You have surrounded me with people who always look out for me. You have given me family and friends who bless me every day with kind words and actions. They lift me up in ways that keep my eyes focused on you and make my spirit soar.

Also, thank you, Lord, for keeping me safe. You protect me from those things that seem to haunt others. You help me make better choices and provide me with advisors to help me with life’s difficult decisions. You speak to me in so many ways so that I always know you are here.

And Lord, I am so grateful for keeping those around me safe and loved. I hope that you provide me with the ability and sense to show them every day how much they matter. I hope that you give me the ability to give to them the same kindness they have provided to me.

I am extremely grateful for all of your blessings in my life, Lord. I pray that you remind me of just how blessed I am and that you never allow me to forget to show my gratitude in prayer and returned acts of kindness.

Thank you, Lord.

- By Kelli Mahoney

**CROWDED WITH GRATITUDE**

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 truly 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.

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
as well as for all 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.

*- Hays, Edward, Prayers for the Domestic Church: A Handbook for Worship in the Home (Kansas: Forest of Peace Books, 1979), 122.*

**THANKFUL FOR TODAY**

We thank you God, for creating the world and for preserving it until now.
We thank you for the regular return of day and night, and of the seasons, and for the dependability of nature and of time.
We thank you for memory, which enables us to build on the experiences of the past;
for imagination, which admits us to a wider world than we could otherwise know; and for foresight, by which we plan for the future.
We thank you for your patience with us in our failings; for friends and family with whom we can celebrate our successes; and for those closest to us who support us in our times of need.
Bless this meal and us gathered here.
Bless those who have little food or friends to comfort them in body or spirit.
Bless those who are unable to be with us this day, and those who have gone before us in faith.
We ask this in your name.

*- Author Unknown*

**BLESS THIS FOOD**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, maker of heaven and earth and Father of all your people:
we give you glory for your goodness and for your loving care for us.

Bless this food and grant that all who eat it may be strong in body and grow in your love.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for ever and ever. Amen

*- Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, A Book of Blessings, 156.*

**PRAISE BE TO YOU**

Loving Father, we thank you for bringing us together for this meal:
may we continue to live in your friendship and in harmony with one another.
Bless this food, a sign of your loving care for us, and bless us in our daily lives.
Bless your church throughout the world, and all those who seek to do your will today.

Father of mercy, all praise be to you through Jesus Christ our savior, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*- Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, A Book of Blessings, 181.*

**WE ARE GRATEFUL**

Lord God and giver of all good gifts, we are grateful as we pause before this meal,
for all the blessings of life that you give to us.
Daily, we are fed with good things, nourished by friendship and care,
feasted with forgiveness and understanding.
And so, mindful of your continuous care, we pause to be grateful
for the blessings of this table. May your presence be the extra taste to this meal
which we eat in the name of your son, Jesus.

*- Edward Hays*