

TABLE LITURGY FOR THE FEAST OF THANKSGIVING*

(The family stands in prayerful silence around their table upon which there are two unlighted candles. After a few moments, the mother of the family begins.)

READER: -- 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 meals.

(candles on table are lighted at this point)

READER: In the silence of our hearts,
let each of us give thanks
for all the many gifts that are ours.

(silent prayer)

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

(silent prayer)

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

(silent prayer)

READER: 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 with the worship of feasting.

We are grateful
not only for the gifts of life itself,
but for 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 the stranger
and by concern for each other.
(We thank You for the presence of our guests,,
who, by their presence in our home,
have added to the brightness of our celebration.)

We are most grateful, this feast day,
for the way You, our Invisible 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.

ALL: Today and all days. Amen.

(Toasting:)

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Include bracketed section, if there are guests present.

