

## **Christmas Gratitude**

*Come, let us welcome this feast 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 this feast  
but at all meals.*

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

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

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

*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 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.*

*Merry Christmas!*

*Adapted Prayers For the Domestic Church:  
A Handbook for Worship in the Home by Edward Hays*

