



## Prayers for Your Christmas Celebrations From Living Grace Lutheran Church



### **A Prayer For Before Gift Opening**

Almighty God, as we prepare to open these gifts, help us to appreciate the time we spend sharing them with each other. We know that giving is an act of love. Let these gifts be a reminder of the greatest gift of love you have given to us – the birth of your Son Jesus Christ - and the everlasting salvation he gives to us. Amen.

### **A Prayer For After Gift Opening**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the privilege of giving and receiving these gifts. We know you are here with us in our laughter and joy. We pray that you would now help us take the love and spirit of giving we have experienced today into the world. May the Holy Spirit guide our thoughts, words, and actions as we seek to live generous. Amen.

### **Prayer Before Christmas Dinner**

*Invite an older child to read the Christmas story. If no children are available, it may be read by an adult.*

“At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was now obviously pregnant. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.” (Luke 2:1,3-7)

Let us pray. Lord God, you are the source of all gifts – like food, home, family and friends. We thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day, and we are grateful for those who are gathered around this table with us. Please bless this food which is a gift from your gracious hand. Also, bless those we love who are not with us today. We thank you for the humble birth of your son Jesus, who came to teach us, guide us, inspire us, and give us eternal life. We give you thanks this Christmas Day and forever. Amen.