

A PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this day we celebrate the gift of life, born in Bethlehem to be our Savior. Since, as his redeemed children, we have the command and invitation to do so, let us now bring our prayers and our petitions before the throne of grace, praising God and saying: **Glory to God in the highest!**

We praise you, Lord God, that from the very beginning of time, you gave the command to be fruitful and multiply. You have blessed and sanctified families throughout history, most significantly through the birth of the Christ Child. Continue to bless all the families represented here; strengthen and restore relationships; protect and keep each family, providing for all of their needs through your riches in Christ Jesus, so that together they can all rejoice in your goodness, praising God and saying: **Glory to God in the highest!**

We praise you, Lord God, that you provide for the needs of people through the family, and also through good civic leaders and servants — mayors and councils, emergency workers and health-care providers; police officers and our armed forces. All of these are governed by you, who uses these individuals to bless us and keep us safe. We thank you for them and ask that you keep them in your care, praising God and saying: **Glory to God in the highest!**

On this blessed day, we are thankful to be surrounded by so many of our fellow believers, our spiritual family. We are thankful for the guests you have brought us this evening. We are also reminded of many others who are not here. We pray for those in our community who are not here, who do not understand how much they need the gifts that only Christ can give. We ask the Spirit to use us to help these souls hear the Savior's call, so that they too might worship the newborn King, praising God and saying: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Father, you also care for the lonely and the destitute. Guide us, as your children and your servants, to reach out to those who are alone in this otherwise festive time of year. Help us find them and include them, reflecting the love you have shown to us, so that they truly have a reason to join us in praising God and saying: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Bless the sick and the home-bound of our congregation, Lord. Let them feel your loving, healing presence; be their rock and their refuge in every trouble. Feeble voice or strong, you love them, and with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, they can join in praising God and saying: **Glory to God in the highest!**

Receive our prayers and our praise, Lord God Almighty, for you live and reign forever: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Adapted from <https://www.lcms.org/worship/three-year-series-prayers>