

Blessing of Christmas Crib and Tree

The prayers may be said by the Father or Mother.

In the little procession formed by the children, the youngest is allowed to place the figure of the Christ Child in the manger. The tree lights should not burn until the blessing of the tree begins.

All sing: HOLY NIGHT.

Father: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Father: Let us pray. Almighty, everlasting God, pour down your blessings on this Crib, which we have set up in memory of the Birth of your Divine Son, Jesus Christ (*he sprinkles the crib with holy water*). Help us to remember, we beg you, each time we look at it, that Jesus came down to us at Bethlehem because He loved us. Let it remind us, too, O Heavenly Father, that the presents we give and those we receive, are given and received in memory of His love. Give peace to our home, O Lord, and peace to the world, so that we may live with our own family and with all men in happiness; through the same Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and rules with you in union with the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

All sing: AWAY IN A MANGER, or some other hymn, while moving to the tree.

Father: O Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly beg you to bless this tree (*he sprinkles it with holy water*) which we have decorated with ornaments and lights in honor of your birth in Bethlehem. Grant that our souls may also wear the ornaments of good deeds; and make the light of virtue shine in us, so that we may draw all men to you. Amen.

All sing: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL, or some other well-known hymn.

Carol Lyrics

O Holy Night

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend!

Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy Name!

Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes.
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky.
And stay by the cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay,
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray!
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And take us to heaven, to Live with Thee there.

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
O sing all ye bright host of heaven above;
Glory to God,
All glory in the highest .

Refrain

Yea, Lord we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.

Refrain

