



## Blessing of the Christmas Meal and Christ Candle

*All gather around the table before the meal with the unlit Christ candle in the middle of the table.*

### **Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, we gather today as a family with a past history and a future hope. Be with us as we celebrate today the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

### **Scripture Reading**

In the beginning was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. The Word was present to God in the Beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came to be. Whatever came to be in the Word, found life, life for the light of all people. The light shines on in the darkness, a darkness that did not overcome it. (John 1)

*At this time light the candle and place it in the center of your table.*

We light this candle to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world and of our family. We who follow Him will never walk in darkness. May we as members of this family always seek to be children of the Light.

### **Sharing the Light**

We now offer one another this lighted candle, saying, "As a member of this family, I will be with you in your moments of darkness and pain. I will be with you always."

*Each member of the family takes a turn passing the candle as he or she says the verse.*

Dearest God, bless each member of our family. Allow us always to walk as children of the light. Help us to be a loving and forgiving family. Bless also the food and drink which we are about to share. Help us to remember that all good gifts come from you. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

Now let us offer each other a sign of God's peace.

*Family members exchange a sign of peace with each other.*

### **Blessing**

Lord, bless each member of our family. Allow us always to walk as children of the light. Help us to be a loving and forgiving family. Bless also our food and drink which we are about to share and help us to remember that all good gifts come from you.

This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**All:** Amen.