The Blessing of a Christmas Tree

Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the Cross a tree of life and light. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving Cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Or

Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night. We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing of a Christmas Crib

God our Father, on this night [day] your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: ✠ bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

Prayers at the Christmas Crib

I

To you, O Christ, Word of the Father, we offer our lowly prayers and humble thanks; for love of our human race you most wonderfully chose to be born to Mary and Joseph, and, by this birth, to take our human nature as nevermore to lay it by; so that we might be born again by your Spirit and restored in the image of God; to whom, one blessed Trinity, be given all honour, might, majesty and power, now and for ever. **Amen.**

II

We pray you, Lord, to purify our hearts, that they may be worthy to become your dwelling place. Let us never fail to find room for you, but come and abide in us, that we also may abide in you, for as at this time you were born into the world for us, and live and reign, King of kings and Lord of lords, now and for ever. **Amen.**

III

O God the Son, highest and holiest, who humbled yourself to share our birth and our death: bring us with the shepherds and the wise men to kneel before your holy cradle, that we may come to sing with your angels your glorious praises in heaven; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, God, world without end. **Amen.**

IV

Lord, by the song of the angels you disclosed your birth to your own people, and by the leading of a star you revealed your glory to strangers. Teach us to know you now, and to make you known to all. **Amen.**

V

The kings, Lord, brought myrrh, frankincense and gold. Lord, we have nothing of our own to bring; we bring you what you have given: our lives for your life. **Amen.**