



Bless your manger on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day with this special prayer.

Opening Prayer

All make the sign of the cross.

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

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Leader: We are at the beginning of the days of Christmas. All through the season we will look on these images of sheep and cattle, of shepherds, of Mary and Joseph and Jesus. Lord Jesus, we gather here today to bless this creche which reminds us of how you came to us as an innocent child. Unless we become like little children we cannot enter the kingdom of God. Awaken within us today the child in our hearts so that we may more fully enter into the Christmas Season.

Scripture Reading

Listen to the words of the Gospel according to Luke:

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he

was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Place the figures in the manger. After a time of silence, all join in the Litany followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Litany for the Child in Each of Us

For a greater sense of play. *Grant this Jesus.*

For a greater sense of laughter. *Grant this Jesus.*

For a greater sense of wonder. *Grant this Jesus.*

For a greater sense of curiosity. *Grant this Jesus.*

For a greater sense of spontaneity. *Grant this Jesus.*

Closing Prayer

Lord, bless this creche. Allow us always to be like the Christ child who is in love with his God. May the presence of the creche in our home help us to accept the wonderful gift that you are to us, and the gift we are to each other. (*Short silence*)

God of Mary and Joseph, of shepherds and animals,
bless us whenever we gaze on this manger scene.

Through all the days of Christmas may these figures tell the story of how they found the Christ in this poor place. Fill our home with hospitality, joy, gentleness, and thanksgiving and guide our steps in the way of peace. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: (*Making the sign of the cross*) Thanks be to God.