A PRAYER FOR THE TABLE

A Table Prayer for Thanksgiving

To be read aloud before the meal. One person may lead, or everyone may read together.

TO BEGIN *Psalm 136:1; Psalm 145:15-16*

Leader Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

All **For his steadfast love endures forever.**

Leader The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

All **You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.**

THE PRAYER

> Lord Jesus, thank you for this food, and for the hands that grew it, carried it, and cooked it. Thank you for the people at this table, all of them. Be with us in the gladness and in the hard places. Be near to those who can't be with us, and comfort us as we remember those we miss. Bless this meal, and help us be kind to one another.
>
> **Amen.**

. . .

IF YOU NEED A DIFFERENT PRAYER

For an empty chair

We remember those who aren't here today. We miss them. Hold them in your care, and hold us in our grief. Amen.

For a tender table

Lord, you know what we bring to this table: affection, old hurts, and things that are hard to say. Give us patience. Keep us gentle. Feed us, and help us listen. Amen.

For eating alone

Lord, I'm at this table, and you are here with me. Thank you for this food, and for the people who love me, near and far. Amen.

For gathering with friends

Lord, thank you for this food and the people gathered here. Thank you for friendship, for kindness, and for the people who make room for us. Amen.

For the youngest voice at the table

Thank you, God, for our food, and for our family, and for Jesus who loves us. Amen.

If some guests don't pray, you can simply say, "We're going to take a moment to give thanks before we eat. You're welcome to join us or just listen." If it helps, say a name aloud in the prayer: "Thank you that Sam is here."