

Inauguration of the Christmas Crib

Close to the celebration of Christmas, after the crib has been set up in a special place (and the house or room or tree has been decorated), all may gather around the crib to bless and praise God for sending his Son, Jesus.

Introduction

All may sing a Christmas hymn or carol.

The leader may begin with the following.

Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen,

All: the saving power of God.

Or:

Leader: Glory to God in the highest.

All: And peace to God's people on earth.



Scripture Reading

Leader: Let us listen to these words from Scripture.

A member of the family may read the following text.

Reader: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

Hebrews 1:1-3a

Or:

Other Passages:

Titus 2:11-14, *the grace of God has appeared*; or **John** 3:16-17, *God's love for us*; or **Luke** 1:28-33, *our Saviour is coming*; or 2:1-5, *Bethlehem*; or 2:6-7, *Birth of Jesus*; or 2:8-20 *Shepherds*.

After the reading, all may reflect in silent prayer.

Litany

Leader: Let us praise our Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world,
who was born for our salvation.

All: **R.** Glory to God in the highest.

Reader: Eternal Word, you have scattered the darkness of sin and death. **R.**
Word made flesh, you have made us children of God most high. **R.**
Incarnate Son, you have united heaven and earth. **R.**
Lord Jesus, you are the revelation of God's love. **R.**
Eternal Son, you are the light of the nations. **R.**
Emmanuel, you are fullness of God's glory. **R.**
Son of God, you were born of Mary with Joseph as your protector. **R.**
Bread of life, you were laid in a humble manger. **R.**
Son of David, the shepherds came to worship you. **R.**
Light of the world, the Magi brought you gifts. **R.**

Prayer of Praise

Leader: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
you have sent your Son
as the promised Saviour of the world
so that he might share with us your divine life.
Bless us as we prepare this crib,
and let it be a reminder of the Lord Jesus,
who was born of the Virgin Mary in the City of David.
Grant that we may always serve you in faith
as did the angels,
praise you for your saving deeds
as did the shepherds,
and surround you with the warmth of our love,
as did the animals of the stable.

Glory and praise to you, eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
who lives with you and the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Conclusion

The celebration may conclude with a Christmas hymn or carol (e.g. O come, all ye faithful) as all gather around the crib.