

## Shorter Rite of Blessing the Christmas Tree

The following is part of the official liturgy of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church.

- The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing.
- In the home, the Christmas tree maybe blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time on Christmas Day.

[All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:]

**Leader:** Blessed be the name of the Lord

**All respond:** Now and forever.

**Leader:** Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of Genesis:

At the time when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens—while as yet there was no field shrub on earth and no grass of the field had sprouted, for the Lord God had sent no rain upon the earth ad there was no man to till the soil, but a stream was welling up out of the earth and was watering all the surface of the ground—the Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being. Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and He placed there the man whom He had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made various trees grow that were delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (*Genesis 2: 4-9*)

**Leader:** [A priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched; a layperson says the prayer with hands joined]:

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.

**All respond:** Amen.

Excerpted from the *Shorter Book of Blessings*, pp. 428-429 (NY: Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1990). Approved for use in the United States by the USCCB and the Holy See.

