

## **Litanies of Thanksgiving and Prayers of Benediction**

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1. **Litanies of Thanksgiving** can be used to open a G-Group “officially,” after giving everyone a few minutes to show up, get some food, settle in. The lines in parentheses are meant to be read by the whole group, following a leader, or the leader could simply read the prayer straight through.

### **O God who gathers us together**

O God who gathers us together,  
who gathers us up into Your heart,  
we give thanks for the food before us.

(May it nourish our bodies)

We give thanks for the loved ones beside us.

(May they nourish our hearts)

We give thanks for Your love around us.

(May it nourish our souls)

Amen.

(Amen)

### **O God, we let go of the burdens**

*\*palms down\**

O God, we let go of the burdens we carried today  
(for they are heavy.)

*\*palms up\**

We receive the peace You give to us  
(for it is light.)

We receive the love that flows from one another  
(for it is Your love.)

*\*hands over heart in a posture of devotion\**

We bless the food before us and the space between us.

Amen.

(Amen)

### **May we listen to Your voice**

May we listen to Your voice in the voices here tonight.

(Give us ears to hear)

May we see one another, so that we can truly love each other.

(Give us eyes to see)

May we savor the food before us and our time together.

(O, taste and see)

Amen.

(Amen)

**Bless our giving and receiving** *(adapted from a Celtic prayer)*

*\*palms up\**

Bless our giving  
    (and receiving).  
Bless our doubting  
    (and believing).  
Bless our serving  
    (and our eating).  
Bless our worshiping  
    (and our meeting)  
Bless our sowing  
    (and our growing).  
Bless our coming  
    (and our going).  
Amen.

**O God, You see us**

*\*light a candle\**

O God, You see us  
    (and You know us.)  
In seeing and knowing us,  
    (You love us.)  
May we see and know one another,  
    (So that we may love like You.)  
Praise You, O Holy One, for giving us life  
Through the food we eat and the love we share.  
Amen.  
    (Amen)

- Prayers of Benediction** can be used to close a G-Group “officially,” signaling that it’s time to help clean up and go on home. The lines in parentheses are meant to be read by the whole group, following a leader, or the leader could simply read the prayer straight through.

**May God hold you** *(adapted from a prayer by Paul Field)*

May God hold you, may God enfold you  
And keep you wrapped around God’s heart.  
May God speed you, may God lead you  
Back to us once we part.

**Christ behind us**

Christ behind us

(Christ before us)

Christ within us

(Christ around us)

We have seen our Lord tonight

(We have seen the living God)

We have seen God in our hearts

(And in one another)

Amen.

**Bless the space between us** *(with thanks to e.e. cummings)*

Bless the space between us, O God.

We carry each other's hearts,

(we carry them in our hearts.)

Hold us together, even as we part.

Amen.

(Amen)

**For the gift of each other** *(Ecclesiastes 4:12)*

We thank You, God, for the gift of each other.

(Together, we learn to love.)

We thank You, God, for the gift of each other.

(Together, we learn to be loved.)

We thank You, God, for the gift of each other.

(Together, we are stronger.)

We thank You, God, for the gift of each other.

(A threefold cord is not easily broken.)

Bind us together in love.

Amen.

**For this sacred space**

We praise You, O Holy One, for this sacred space.

We acknowledge the holy ground of togetherness,

The burning bush of companionship,

And the divine anointing of love.

Help us carry one another, knowing that You carry us.

Amen.