

BLESSING PRAYER FOR A BIRTHDAY

Candles on the table or on a cake may be used in this blessing.

Lord of Life,

106 as we celebrate this traditional feast
in honor of the day when (*name*)
was Your gift to her/his parents and to the world,
we ask of You
♦ a blessing.

♦ Bless (*name*) and each of us with wisdom,
the wisdom that You shared with Your clever son,
♦ Pablo Picasso, artist and lover of life, who said:
♦ “It takes a long, long time for one to become
young.”

♦ Make us younger
on each birthday.

♦ Awaken within us the child
who is so often asleep with shame.

Open our eyes to wonder and awe;
delight our hearts with amazement and playfulness.

candles may be lit

May candles burn bright on this feast,
as signs of the fire of life
that burns today, on this birthday, and on
every day—

BLESSING PRAYER
AT THE COMPLETION
OF THE HARVEST

Lord and Bountiful Creator,
giver of grains and seeds, of fruits and berries
and all that grows from the earth,
we thank You and we bless You for this year's harvest.

30 We lift up our hearts in gratitude for the sun,
which, together with rain, wind and earth,
worked in harmony to produce this bountiful harvest.

◆ We are grateful to all those
who labored in—together with—the earth
so that this harvest time might come to fullness.

◆ Lord, as Your Son, Jesus, knew: harvest is hard work!
◆ Yet, it is also richly rewarding
to see the fruit of our labor,
◆ to take pride in this completed harvest.

◆ We thank You, our Lord and God,
for Your protection and care in this season of
harvest.

We bless You for the weather given to us for our work.
This harvest, Lord, was not without its difficulties;
no harvest is,
but we rejoice that those times of trouble
did not prevent us from the completion of this task.

The sun smiled on us, the wind cooled us
and the earth laughed as we caressed her skin,
collecting the fruit of this harvest.

Come, Lord of the Harvest, Lord of Rejoicing,
come and join us in our festive celebration.

May our joy at this harvest

be a taste of the joy we shall share

when we celebrate the final harvest of heaven,

that day of days when all that You have begun
will be matured to completion.

Blessed are You, Lord our God,

who has given to us this harvest.

Amen†



BLESSED ARE YOU,
LORD OUR GOD,
WHO DELIGHTS US
WITH THE WONDER OF WIND.

Father of Ten Thousand Gifts,
we are grateful for the invisible wonder of wind,
for that playful spirit of nature 71
that drives kites heavenward,
carries away balloons on invisible fingers ♦
and twirls windmills joyfully. ♦

We rejoice in this marvel, the wind,
bearer of seeds, waver of flags and banners, ♦
carrier of clouds and sea-spray ♦
and messenger of God: as holy wind, the Holy Spirit. ♦

We rejoice in that Holy Spirit ♦
who surrounded Mount Sinai with wind, smoke, and fire ♦
when holy Moses met You face to face. ♦

For the breeze which held the voice of God ♦
that called Elijah from his cave of hiding,
for the wind upon which rode the tongues of fire
that came upon Jesus' friends after His ascension to You,
we are grateful.

For all these gifts of the wind,
the dance master of yellow leaves
and bringer of spring rains,
for the wind itself which we feel upon our bodies,
we are thankful;

and we praise You, Spirit Supreme,
by enjoying on this day
Your holy creature and sacred singing sign,
the wind.

Blessed are You, Lord our God,
who delights us with the wonder of wind.

Ament



BLESSING PRAYER FOR PETS

34

O Supreme Spirit of Creation,
from Your sacred breath came forth
birds and beasts, fish and fowl,
creatures of such variety and beauty
that we are continuously amazed
at Your divine imagination.

These children of Yours
have been blessed by You, their Creator,
with simplicity, beauty and a cosmic purpose.

◆ They have been blessed as well
by our greatest grandfather, Adam,
who in Edenland gifted each with its own name.

◆ They have also been blessed with protection
by our ancient ancestor Noah, patron saint of those
who seek to preserve all that You have created.

◆ Sheep and goats, donkeys and cows,
doves and serpents, fish and birds of the air
were blessed by Jesus, Your Son,
by His being born in their company
and by His making use of them in His teachings.

May we, in this holy pattern, now bless (name)
by taking delight in his/her beauty and naturalness.

May we bless this animal
with a Noah-like protection
from all that might harm him/her.

May we, like Adam and Eve,

speak to this creature of Yours
 with kindness and affection,
 reverencing his/her life and purpose
 in our communal creation.

May we never treat (*name*) as a dumb animal,
 but rather let us seek to learn his/her language
 and to be a student of all the secrets that he/she knows.

May Your abundant blessing rest upon this creature
 who will be a companion for us in the journey of life.

Ament†



for all days and all eternity
in the heart of (*name*)
and in each of our hearts.

Lord of Birthdays and Festivals,
dance on our roof
and join us with Your divine mirth.

So be it.

Ament†

