

## **BANQUET “GRACE” PRAYERS**

We are grateful, Lord, for those here who inspire us;  
For those with courage enough to lead us;  
For those with wisdom enough to challenge us;  
But, above all, for those with backbone enough to be themselves with us.  
Bless, O Lord, our food and drink which we are about to receive from Your bounty.  
Bless this gathering, granting us health, peace and progress:  
For You are good and to You we ascribe all glory now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessed are You, O Lord, King of the Universe: You bring forth food from the earth, and sustain all Your creation with goodness, mercy, and grace. We cherish the memories of the past and with fondness and gratitude we gather with our friends and associates You have blessed us with. We are grateful for all who share our heritage and our patriotism. Bless them and nourish us all with Thy Spirit of love and obedience. Bless the food we will partake to our physical body that our spirits will be lifted in praise to You for these and all Your blessings. **Amen.**

Eternal Father, for the continued blessings of heaven, we give You thanks. As You feed our bodies, so may our minds partake of that which is wholesome and pure. With this physical and mental nourishment, grant that we may also live in a way that brings honor to our families, our nation, our comrades and sisters, our God, and ourselves. May we do Your will at all times in order to be truly called Your children. Bless, now, this food prepared for us, that it may nourish and strengthen us for our duties and responsibilities. **Amen.**

Be present at our table, Lord;  
Be here and everywhere adored.  
These creatures bless, and grant that we  
May feast in Paradise with Thee. **Amen. (John Wesley)**

Bless, O Lord, this food to our use, and us to Your service;  
And keep us ever mindful of the needs of others. **Amen. (Protestant)**

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. **Amen. (Catholic)**

Our Father, how great You are! You have blessed us in so many ways and we thank You—for the opportunity to unite in this moment of prayer, this special privilege we have in America. We ask Your blessing on this food. May our fellowship, as we partake be an added blessing as we strive to keep America—“*one nation under God.*” **Amen.**

We cherish the memories of the past, our Father, with fondness and gratitude we recall our friends and associates with which You have blessed us. The joys of similar occasions as we now participate in, causes us to anticipate Your goodness to us again. Bless this food to our physical body that our Spirits will be lifted in praise to You for these and all Your blessings. **Amen.**

Dear Lord, may this meal that we share be seasoned from above with Your blessings and Your grace—but most of all Your love. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father: we thank You for Your presence with us. We thank You for bringing us together. We thank You for our health, our homes and our work. We thank You for the joyful moments we share as a Veterans of Foreign Wars family. We thank You for our bounty and the many blessings You give us. We thank You for the many little things that bring us joy. We thank You for Your goodness to us. We thank You for the gift of food we are about to eat. We thank You for those who labored to prepare it. And we thank You for sharing life with us, both in this meal and in all ways You sustain us. **Amen.**

Our Heavenly Father, we come unto You in this moment because we believe that You are our God and we are Your people, and You are the Creator and Sustainer of life. We acknowledge that every good and perfect gift comes from above and that all that we have comes from Your Divine beneficent hand. We thank You for this food and ask for Your blessings upon us as we partake. Teach us to be always mindful of Your loving and tender mercies. **Amen.**

Thank You, O Lord, for guiding us towards achieving our goals. Thank You for giving us the opportunity to gather at this banquet/meal and to appreciate life. Thank You for our heavenly and earthly gifts which You have bestowed upon us. Thank You for Your love and compassion for humankind. You are a great and wonderful God, and to You we ascribe all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

For the joy of life we are grateful to You, O God; for the fun we have as we jest one with another, we thank You. We pray for the food we are about to receive that it will be used for strength to serve You. The bread looks good and so does the meat. So bless us real good, O Lord, as we eat. **Amen.**

Grant that our fellowship here will draw us closer to You, which leads us closer to one another, to the end that we will use the strength gained from the food we partake to the work You have given us to do. Let us serve You not with the Spirit of bondage as slaves, but with cheerfulness and gladness of children, delighting ourselves in You and rejoicing in Your work, that freedom and peace may abound. **Amen.**

O Gracious Heavenly Father, we pause and bow our heads before You to humbly ask Your blessing and to give thanks for the goodness You have shown us. To assist us to overcome our human weaknesses and needs, You have urged us to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty, and to aid the poor and needy. May Your blessings be graciously bestowed upon (Post \_\_\_ ) and upon those who have accepted, in such a special way, the fulfilling of Your admonitions. Remember especially in Your love, the Auxiliary who give so much of their time and talent to this organization. And now, O Lord, bless us and these, Your gifts of food and drink of which we are about to partake, for You are blessed and glorified, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, for all the good things You have bestowed on us, we give thanks—for our homes, our families, and these our friends gathered here. We give thanks too for the good we are about to receive from Your bounty and ask Your blessings on it and the hands that have prepared it. And dear Lord, we ask Your forgiveness for anything You have found amiss in us today whether it be in a thought, word, or deed, and have us tonight (today) in Your holy keeping as we continue to serve You, our Country, and our Veterans. **Amen.**

Almighty God whose great commandment is that we shall love our neighbors as ourselves, and who has taught us that we should do to others as we would have them do to us, we ask Your blessings upon those gathered here today (tonight). We ask that You will hold before us the vision of Your will for us all which will enlighten our goals and our actions undertaken in Your name and for our State and Nation. Grant us a vision of this state, fair as it might be in the fulfillment of Your purposes; a state of justice where none shall prey upon others; a state of economic plenty where greed and poverty shall

both be done away; a state of generosity where the needs of the unfortunate are met with care; a state of brotherhood where success is founded upon service, and where honor is given to nobleness alone; a state of peace, where order shall not rest on force but on love for each and everyone. Bless this occasion, and bless the bounty which we are about to receive—as You have promised to be always with Your people when they turn to You our God and Father. **Amen.**

Almighty God our heavenly Father, as we pause now in a moment of prayer, we recognize You are the source of all life. We thank You for fond memories, old friends, and new friendships. We have traveled various roads to get to this time in our lives and this place. May we always have You as our traveling companion as we journey. Bless, O Lord, our food and drink which we are about to receive from Your bounty. May it nourish our body as Your Spirit nourishes our soul. We pray in Your Holy Name. **Amen.**

Almighty God, be with us as we come together this day to pay tribute to our \_\_\_\_\_.  
We rejoice that we are a source of support to our Country. Help us with Your guidance in the work of our great organization. May our activities be counted among the good deeds that please You. We ask for Your strength and the ability to do the tasks You set before us. Keep us concerned about the welfare and improvement of our nation, the safety and pride of our homes, and the moral and spiritual values that guide our community living. We ask Your blessings upon our members and guests here gathered and to bless the food which we are about to partake together. All this we ask in Your Holy Name. **Amen.**

We thank You, O Lord our God, for Your heavenly and earthly gifts which we have received from Your bounty. Thank You for giving us Your blessings in this assembly and for providing us with leadership to minister to our well-being. Bless them with a continuing desire to grow in wisdom and understanding of their world, their fellow comrades and sisters, and themselves. We pray in Your Holy Name. **Amen.**