Granddad’s graces/writings

Just as the spring flower opens its petals to the renewing life, so might we open our hearts to life’s renewing; strength in hope; love in companionship; faith in our eternal destiny.

Oh Heavenly Father, we like the tall oaks in the forest have weathered many a storm and are stronger for the time given by you and this food to continue life’s celebrations, we would be grateful.

Friends, let us toast to the Queen of the feast, Frances. She, for many years of our marriage, has made my birthday a celebration. To you, our esteemed guests, many thanks for being able to come to make a kinglike celebration. To good health for all.

May our faith, like a lighthouse on the shore, so shine forth that souls confused and lost may be guided to renewed hope and trust in the living Lord. For the food lovingly here prepared lend strength to our purpose.

Give me but a moment in thy temple, O Lord, and I will proclaim thy majesty. Give me but a moment with my grandchildren and friends and I will proclaim my God is love.

Like the flowers in the spring, let our expectations rise again and our thankfulness for our lives continue to be renewed. Let us also be grateful for loving hands that have made this food a grand feast.

Sometimes I feel like a pebble on the beach: tossed up by the tide, buffeted by the storms, left baking in the midday sun. Yet do I love my fellow pebbles, for we share life on your beach, our Heavenly Father.

Let us be reminded as we see the full moon of recent nights of the great story of the release of the children of the covenant from slavery into freedom. May we ever serve one another in defense of freedom.

Father of mercy, o continue thy loving kindness unto me and unto my dear ones. Make me worthy to rear my children that they walk in the way of the righteous before thee, loyal to thy law and clinging to good deeds. Keep thou from us all manner of shame, grief, and care; and grant that peace, light, and joy ever abide in our home.

As we tread the prickly path of life, may we be guided by thy light and strengthened by this food.

O let us come to gather in joy and celebration, for our moments with each other are pleasant. Would that the golden cord last forever.

We honor a tradition and we honor our forbearers who kept it alive; that we thank the Almighty for live-giving sustenance and our existence in his universe.

O Heavenly Father, you have blessed us with minds to think, hearts to love, and hands to serve. So it’s with heartfelt thanks we are mindful of hands that here serve and we give her our loving thanks.

In truth we are members of a human family and truly also we are members of God’s family, for it is he who has bequeathed to us Life itself.

O Heavenly Father, our Lord and Creator. That this moment of sharing in mutual gratitude is in peace, we are grateful. We also would remember loved ones still dear but unfortunately not here.

We render unto Caesar that which is Caesar’s, but we render unto our Lord Creator our thanks for life and this life sustaining food.

Oh Heavenly Father we seek thy presence and blessing on our earthly feast. In thy spirit may we continue to grow; to feel the joys of sharing; to enlarge our outlook on the many changes in life. In the confused hopes for a better tomorrow may we serve as messengers. For the many loving hands making this meal possible we offer thanks. Amen

O, Heavenly Father, we call upon thy name in fulfillment of the promise that when two or three are gathered, thou also will be present. We thank thee for life itself and this moment of enjoyment together as we share good food. Amen

O Heavenly Father let us come together in joy and celebration for this moment is pleasant and our days on earth are fleeting.

For love that dwells in us For hearts that encourage us For hands that in love find us We salute this year at Christmas

We are blest o Heavenly Father that thou art here, for hands this food prepared, for hearts made warm in ties that bind, for journeys run, for days yet begun. In all we do, O Father, thy will be done.

Loving golden opportunity to strengthen the friendship ties that bind, we are most grateful. For journeys well run, for days yet begun.

May we remember, O Heavenly Father, the price paid by our forbearers who having come to this country gave thee thanks despite a winter past of deaths and starvation- yea, even today remembered: our Pilgrim heritage.

May thy spirit, O Heavenly Father, lead us to the serenity of this savory table…leaving behind us the noise of worldly confusion.

4/26/03 O Heavenly Father we seek thy spirit becoming alive in our hopes. Our Pandora’s boxes cry out their emptiness in today’s difficult times. Fill us with renewed strengths of shining expectations. Be at this our renewal feast of love. In thy spirit we say Amen.

7/26/97 HOPE H Helpful O Optimistic P Patience E Endearing

7/24/97 May we rejoice in being at this lovingly given feast; for the hands and heart given in its preparation; for the opportunity presented here in giving comfort and hope to each other. For these blessings may we be grateful.

We come together to celebrate a gift each of us has, a birthday. May we be pleased to enjoy each other’s presence and good health. A kind word also to the giver of loving cooking.

Let us make this brief slice of eternal time a joyous memory and may we be not afraid of facing with hope a future of many possibilities.

As we welcome the good food, we raise our thanks to thee our Heavenly Father; our life-long benefactor.

O Heavenly Father we call upon you as giver of life and blessings. We would be ever grateful. May we offer to her loving hands which made this feast possible our thanks. To those gathered here may our regards be extended in many good wishes for health and hopes for much satisfaction in being alive and well.

O, please come, o spirit of life and live within us. May we cry out with joy to see thy handwork; thy loving children; thy fond parents; this food in love prepared.

For hearts that love dearly For hands that serve sincerely For eyes that see clearly May we be led to God more nearly (Lead us to God more nearly)

For the power that comes from within, when all else seems forgotten and dim. For loving, kindness, and greatness too Dear Lord, thankfulness we give unto you. Amen.

In this moment of gratitude savoring the aroma of good food, may we call upon the spirit of kindly affection to continue to nourish us as we seek to be better in living and in loving one another.

Dear Heavenly Father, If the truth be confessed, for what we really are thankful for, it is the food so well prepared and the indomitable spirit of Frances’s good will that has made this gathering possible.

Dear Heavenly Father, You have given us Life- it is up to us to help it grow. You have given us eyes- it is up to us to see the needs of your children. You have given us hearts- it is up to us to love your children and to seek joy in living with them and ourselves.

O Lord, we gratefully remember- that loving becomes vibrant and live when it becomes a joiner. Like loving you and being loved and in hands that have lovingly prepared this food for us.

Bless we more thy name, O Creator, who has promised that whenever two or more are gathered in thy name, thou also will be with us.

We work and we play and we share each day, for we know the long night cometh when man works no more.

O Lord we light again the warming glow of friendship’s fires, and here we are grateful that each shining ember adds to the warmth of our celebration burning in thankfulness.

O Heavenly father we accept with pleasure this feast brought by loving hands and the celebration of giving in the life of Frances. This is her birthday and each one of us has cause to be happier because of her. With great gratitude, Amen.

O Heavenly Father, on this day special for Americans we are grateful: for brave forbearers, for loved ones whose lives enriched ours, our hopes for growth in years to come. In appreciation for loving hands that prepared this feast, we say Amen.

We are like pearls- the gems of beauty whose luster is enhanced when making contact with humans.

O Heavenly Father, Lord of Life, we are thankful for this golden moment made bright by family and friends. We celebrate the food and friendship of many; for heartwarming encounters spanning years of growing. We are grateful for those dear to us whose earthly lives shall shine forever in our memory. We thank thee for giving life to generations yet to come. May they too have occasions for public gratitude.