

GRACE

On the Occasion of a Dinner in Honour of
His Excellency Halldór Ásgrímsson, Prime Minister of Iceland,
Hosted by the Rt. Hon. Paul Martin, Prime Minister of Canada
Fairmont Hotel - Winnipeg, Manitoba
Friday, July 29, 2005

Rev. Stefan M. Jonasson

Please join with me in the spirit of prayer and thanksgiving ...

Infinite Spirit of Love: We give thanks for this occasion which brings us together to celebrate the friendship between two nations. May the relationship between Canada and Iceland inspire others to dream of a world characterized by peace and liberty, justice and cooperation, so that we may fashion one humanity from among the Earth's people.

Grant to our elected leaders the wisdom to guide our countries well, that they may govern justly and compassionately, and be worthy of the authority we entrust to them; and grant to us all the will and the mettle to be worthy citizens in these two lands we love.

*Que les bénédictions qui remplissent les cœurs de ceux qui aiment, remplissent aussi nos cœurs, et apportent-nous toutes les grâces spirituelles. Puisse une sincère et profonde amitié de cœur et d'esprit enrichir et ennoblir nos deux pays.**

Amidst the bounty of this hour, may we remember those who are not so blessed. In our fortunate and privileged lands, help us never to take for granted the gifts we receive but inspire us to generosity towards those in need.

As Icelanders ask, in the familiar table grace of Valdimar Briem:

*Gef oss í dag vort daglegt brauð,
vor Drottinn Guð, af þínum auð.
Vort líf og eign og bústað blessa
og blessa þú oss máltíð þessa.
En gef vér aldrei gleymum þér
er gjafa þinna njótum vér.†*

In that spirit, O Source of Life, bless this food we are about to receive. We are ever grateful for the fruits of the earth, which are given for our nourishment and enjoyment, and for the company of friends and companions. And for dessert, help each of us to be a blessing to the world.

Amen

Translation of French and Icelandic Portions:

* May the blessings that fill the hearts of those who love fill our hearts also, and bring each of us every spiritual joy. May a deep and abiding friendship of heart and spirit enrich and ennoble our two countries.

† Give us today our daily bread, our Lord God, from your abundance. Bless our life and possessions and homes, and you bless this our meal. But let us never forget you, as your generosity benefits us.