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 **BLESSING PRAYER**

 **FOR THE**

 **HALLOWEEN LIGHT**

**Introduction**

Halloween is the day before All Saints Day. It used to be called “All Hallows Eve”, the evening before the feast of “all the holy ones”. No matter how scared we are on Halloween, the Saints, whose feast we celebrate the next day, remind us that God’s light does indeed outshine the darkness.

**Smiling Pumpkin Reflection**

*Leader tells all that smiles, laughter and joy are simple gifts that God gives us to erase sadness and fear. Then the leader asks the following questions:*

* *How do you feel when you see a scary pumpkin?*
* *How do you feel when you look at this smiling one?*
* *Which one is the most like God?*

How wonderful that that each of us has within us the light of Jesus. We become a light that can erase hatred, evil, pain and sadness. The light in us is just like Jesus’ light.

**Blessing Prayer for Halloween Light**

*Leader puts a large candle in the smiling jack-o-lantern. All watch the flame as it fills the pumpkin with light*. *Leader invites all to extend their right hand to bless the Halloween light.*

God who created pumpkins and people,
bless our beautiful Halloween light.
This light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world.
Jesus shines through the darkness
and turns the night into day,
sadness into joy,
hate into love
and tears into smiles.

Bless the candle burning bright in this pumpkin
Let it be a reminder that we are your candles
lighting up the smiles and hearts of our friends and family.

Bless any happy pumpkins carved and lit for Halloween,
that everyone who sees them might never be afraid of the darkness
because your wonderful light is with us

**Psalm 18:** The Lord Lightens My Darkness (NABRE Paraphrased)

L: The Lord is my strength.
 My God in whom I take refuge.
 I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
 And I am saved from danger.

**R: For it is you who light my lamp,**

 **The Lord my God lightens my darkness.**

L: In danger I called upon the Lord,
 And cried to my God for help;
 God heard my voice, my cry for help.

**R: For it is you who light my lamp,**

 **The Lord my God lightens my darkness.**

L: He protected me; he delivered me from danger.
 The Lord was my safety.
 He rescued me, because He delighted in me.

**R: For it is you who light my lamp,**

 **The Lord my God lightens my darkness.**

L: With the kind You show Yourself kind;
 With the blameless You show Yourself blameless;
 With the pure You show Yourself pure,
 For You save an afflicted people.

**R: For it is you who light my lamp,**

 **The Lord my God lightens my darkness.**

**Prayer for Safety**

L: Let us pray

Almighty God, in whom there is no darkness at all:
Grant us your light perpetually.
When we cannot see the way before us,
may we continue to put our trust in you;
Guided and guarded by your love,
may we be keep from falling,
today and all our days,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**R: Amen**

*Adapted from Prayer Appropriate Before Trick-or-Treating by William Knight, Printed in Prayers for all Occasions, Forward Movement*

**Song:** City of God (*Ritual Song #799, vv. 1-2*)

Introduction, Smiling Pumpkin Reflection, and Blessing of the Halloween Light adapted from Celebrating Halloween and All Saints Day: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/celebrating-halloween-and-all-saints-day/>.