



LORD'S DAY CELEBRATION

If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from doing your own pleasure on My holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and My holy day honorable, if you honor it, then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth. I will feed you with the heritage of your father Jacob, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Isaiah 58:13-14

Therefore, a Sabbath rest still remains for the people of God. And, whoever enters God's rest also ceases from his labors as God did from His. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest. Hebrews 4:9-11

The Lord's Day is a time set aside to honor our Lord Jesus for His death and Resurrection with worship and prayer. What follows is a simple ceremony to mark the beginning of the Lord's Day at sundown on Saturday evening. The Lord's Day then continues to be celebrated in the Lord's peace and rest until Sunday evening.

Family and guests should be reminded that this ceremony is not a Eucharist or communion service, nor is it intended to replace one. It is, however, a way of following God's commandment to keep holy the day of the Lord. Our participation in the celebration of the Lord's Day can be one of the greatest signs to the world that Jesus Christ has truly risen and is among us today.

In keeping with the nature of the day, the meal should be a special one, carefully prepared and different from normal weekday meals, although it need not be elaborate or expensive. You are encouraged to set the table with your best dishes and silverware as a particular way of honoring the Lord on His holy day. Our manner of dress should also honor the Lord. Participants should wear something appropriate for a nice dinner to which guests have been invited.

You will need the following: Bible, Lord's Day ceremony pages, wine glasses, wine or grape juice, candle or oil lamp, loaf of uncut bread

The overall goal of the Lord's Day ceremony is to remind us that the day of the Lord is holy and we are called as a people to instill in our culture and families an attitude of joyful anticipation for this day that is sacred to the Lord our God. We are called to honor the Lord with the best that we have and truly celebrate this day with rest and gladness.

1. WELCOMING THE LORD'S DAY

Leader: Brothers and Sisters, let us welcome the Lord's Day.

All: **We welcome the day of the Lord in joy and in peace.**

Leader: Today we set aside the cares of this past week so that we may honor the Lord and celebrate His Resurrection. Today, we cease from our work in order to worship God and remember the eternal life to which He has called us.

All: **Let us enter into God's rest and cease from our labors as God did from His.**
(Stand and sing Opening Song)

Leader: A reading from... (Sunday Liturgy or one of the Resurrection accounts)

All: **Amen.** *(Be seated)*

2. KINDLING OF THE LIGHTS

Reader: "And God said: let there be light, and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day and the darkness He called Night, and there was evening and morning, the first day." Gen 1:3

Leader: Light is the symbol of our Lord, Jesus.

All: **The Lord is our light and our salvation.**

Leader: Light is the symbol of the Lord's purpose and ways.

All: **His word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light for my path.**

Leader: Light is the symbol of the mission to which the Lord has called us.

All: **You are the Light of the world. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.**

Woman of the House:

Lord of the Universe, in honor of your Son, Light of the World and Author of Life, I am about to perform the service of lighting the lights for the Lord's Day, even as it is written: "And you shall call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable." (Isa. 58:13)

All: **In You, O Lord, is the fountain of life and in Your light, we see light.**

Woman of the House: *(Lights candle and prays with hands extended)*

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who have made us holy by Your loving work, and taught us to light the lights for the Lord's Day.

All: **Amen.** *(Song)*

Reader: At that time, Jesus declared: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Mt 11:28-30

Leader: May the Lord shelter us this day in His loving presence; may He be for us a stronghold, a shield, a place of refuge from every care and sorrow, as we dedicate ourselves to giving thanks and to recalling His saving deeds. *(raising hands)*
Spread over us, O Lord, the tabernacle of Your peace.

All: Shelter us beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Leader: Blessed are You, O Lord our God who spreads the tabernacle of peace over us, over all Your people, over all who honor the Lord's Day and over all who suffer

All: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has bestowed on us the gift of the Lord's Day.

3. BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

Leader: At this hour, God's messenger of peace comes and turns the hearts of brother to his brother, sister to her sister, parents to their children, and the hearts of children to their parents. Mal. 3:24

All: Happy the people with such blessings. Happy the people whose God is the Lord. Ps. 144:15

Leader: Let our sons then flourish like saplings, grown tall and strong from their youth; our daughters graceful as columns, adorned as though for a palace. Give them the grace to embrace Your plan for their life either in marriage or celibacy for the sake of Your kingdom.

All: Happy the people with such blessings. Happy the people whose God is the Lord. Ps. 144:15

Leader: May the God of our fathers, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ bless each of you. May He who has guided you to this day lead you to be an honor and blessing to your family. May He who has protected you from harm make you servants of the Church and a blessing to all mankind, through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen! *(At this time, adults can trace a cross on the forehead of their children who are present and those whose children are not present can bless them from afar)*

4. BLESSING OF THE MEAL *(Fill everyone's wine glass)*

Leader: *(Raise wine glasses)* Let us praise God with this symbol of joy and thank Him for His goodness to us this past week:

For the life He has given us in the Holy Spirit...	Amen!
For health, and the strength to serve Him...	Amen!
For our families...	Amen!
For our life together	Amen!
For our brotherhood, sisterhood, and friendship...	Amen!
For the discipline that comes from trials & temptations..	Amen!
For the happiness that comes to us out of our of our labors..	Amen!

Leader: You have ennobled us O Lord, by the gift of work, and in Your love and kindness You have made us holy by the gift of rest, according to your commandment: "Six days shall you labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God." Deut 5:13

All: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has created the fruit of the vine. *(You can continue toasting to God and to honor others)*

Leader: *(Raise the bread)* This bread and the food we are about to share symbolize the abundant love of the Lord for His people. As we partake of this bounty, may we also share the fruit of the Holy Spirit with one another, in love and in truth.

All: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who bring forth bread from the earth.

Leader: We thank God for His goodness as together we ask Him to bless this meal:

All: Bless us O Lord, and these Your gifts which we are about to receive from Your bounty, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Leader: May the Lord Jesus grant us a life of holiness!	Amen!
May the Lord Jesus grant us a life of peace!	Amen!
May the Lord Jesus grant us a life of joy!	Amen!

Reader: And may the King of Eternal Glory lead us this day to the banquet of eternal life!

All: GOOD LORD'S DAY!

*(Pass bread and appetizers – you can thank the Lord for something as you take a piece of bread. Then continue toasting the Lord and one another during the meal.)
(You can leave the candle lit in a safe place til Sunday evening as a reminder to keep the day holy)*

5. SONGS

O come, beloved, greet the bride (2x)

O come, O come, O come let us go and welcome the day of the Lord.

Hiney mah tov umah naim, shevet achim gam yachad. **(2x)**

Hiney mah tov, hiney mah tov. Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai. **(2x)**

Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together. **(2x)**

In unity, to dwell in unity. Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai. **(2x)**

(Psalm 126) When the Lord restored the fortunes, restored the fortunes of Zion, We were like men dreaming, we were like men dreaming.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy.

Then they said, among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us. We are filled with gladness.

Deliver us O, Lord from bondage, as the streams in the Southern desert.

They that sow their seeds in tears, will reap, will reap, with shouts of joy!

He that goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing.

Shall come home with shouts of joy, come home, carrying his sheaves. Lai, Lai, Lai...

(Celebration Song) In the presence of Your people, I will praise Your name For alone You are holy enthroned on the praises of Israel. Let us celebrate Your goodness and Your steadfast love May Your name be exalted here on earth and in heaven above. Lai, Lai, Lai