

LORD'S DAY

Prior to your meal on Saturday evening or on Sunday, gather at the table and pray the following. The parts in *italics* are said by all. The other parts may be divided among a leader and one or two readers (for the reading and psalm). You will need an unlit candle and a means for lighting it. You may wish to begin with a hymn.

In the name of the Father, **☩** and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R *Amen.*

READING (ACTS 2:42-47)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need.

Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

R *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM (118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23)

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

R *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.
Let the house of Israel say,
“His mercy endures forever.”

R *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*

“The right hand of the LORD has struck with power; the right hand of the LORD is exalted.
I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.”

R *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.

R *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*

PRAYER TO WELCOME THE LORD'S DAY

Heavenly Father, in honor of your Son, Light of the World and Author of Life, we are about to kindle the light for the Lord's Day. On this day, you raised your Son, Jesus, from the dead and began the new creation. May our celebration of his Resurrection this day be filled with your peace and heavenly blessing. Be gracious to us and cause your Holy Spirit to dwell more richly in us.

Father of Mercy, continue your loving kindness toward us. Make us worthy to walk in the way of your Son, loyal to your teaching and unwavering in love and service. Keep far from us all anxiety, darkness, and gloom; and grant that peace, light, and joy ever abide among us.

R *For in you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.*

Light the candle and recite the following blessing over the candle.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, who created light on the first day and raised your Son, the Light of the World, to begin the new creation.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who gives us joy to kindle the light for the Lord's Day.

Rx *Amen.*

Let us trust in the Lord and in His saving help.

Rx *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

Let us receive His life and rejoice in his presence.
He is the true light that enlightens every man.

Let us keep his commandments and walk in his ways.
Rx *His word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

Let us proclaim his goodness and show forth His Glory.

Rx *We are the light of the world and the salt of the earth.*

Brothers and sisters, this is the Lord's Day.

Rx *Let us welcome it in joy and peace.*

Today we set aside our concerns of the week 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.

Rx *The Lord Himself is with us, to refresh and strengthen us.*

Let us welcome God among us and give Him glory.

Rx *Let us love one another in Christ.*

May the Holy Spirit be with us, to deepen our devotion to the Lord and to increase our zeal for the way of life He has given us.

Rx *Amen.*

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DURING THE MEAL

During your meal, try to have one conversation at the table. Allow everyone the chance to participate, including the children. Consider sharing stories from your faith journey, about your vocation, and the like.

ROUND OF THANKS

Toward the end of the meal, the leader of the table will call for a round of thanks. This is an opportunity for everybody at the table to share one or two reasons they are grateful to God for blessings received during the previous week.

PRAYER AFTER THE MEAL

We give thee thanks, Almighty God, for these and all thy benefits, who lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.