

Preparation for the Lord's Day Celebration

The Lord's Day is a time set aside to honor our Lord Jesus for his death and Resurrection. This booklet is a simple ceremony to mark the beginning of the Lord's Day at supper-time 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 His Sabbath. The Sabbath is the greatest of the Jewish festivals; even greater than Passover and the Day of Atonement. In the same way and for the same reasons, each Sunday is to be celebrated like Christmas or Easter. Each and every Sunday we recall that God created time and made it holy. Time, itself, becomes a sanctuary of God's presence, a slice of eternity. Each and every Sunday we recall our Lord's saving deeds and rejoice in the promise of everlasting life.

Our participation in the celebration of the Lord's Day is 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. It is appropriate to set the table with the best dishes and silverware and dress in a manner that honors the Lord on His holy day.

The goal of the Lord's Day ceremony is to remind us that Sunday is holy and that we are called as a people to instill in our families and culture an attitude of joyful anticipation for this sacred day. One day each week we have the opportunity to experience the shalom peace of God our Father poured over us like a shelter as we enter into His care and provision. Therefore, let us enter into His Sabbath rest.

Special items for the celebration of the Lord's Day:

- A bible turned to an appropriate reading
- A copy of the Lord's Day ceremony for each person
- A wine glass for each place or a shared cup
- A loaf of unsliced bread
- Wine or grape juice (sparkling grape or apple juice is a special treat for children)
- Unlit candles or oil lamps

It is appropriate to light two candles; the first candle represents remembering the Lord's Day while the second represents observing the Lords' Day. The act of lighting the lights invites the manifest Presence of God into our home.

Relax. Enjoy yourselves and have fun.



Inauguration of the Lord's Day

*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 Jacob, your father,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.*

*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.*

(Isaiah 58:13-14; Hebrews 4:9-11)

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.

Song: It Is Good (Dm/Gm/D7/A/A7)

Paul Wilbur

It is good to praise the Lord
And make music to your Name, O God Most High.
To proclaim your love and faithfulness
All the day and through the night.

Lai, lai, lai...

You make me glad by your deeds, O Lord,
So I sing for joy at all your hands have made.
How great are your works, O Lord,
Elohim baruch Ha-shem!

Lai, lai, lai...

May I dwell in your courts, O Lord,
There to flourish like the trees of Lebanon,
Planted in the house of Adonai,
There to live forever more!

Lai, lai, lai...

Scripture Reader: A reading from...(Sunday Liturgy or a Resurrection account)

All: Amen.

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 call Night, and there was evening and morning, the first day." (Gen 1:3-5)

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

Isaiah 60 (A/G/F modified, verses E/D/A/G)

Donald Kopinski

Arise, shine out! For your light has come!
The glory of Yahweh is rising on you.
Though night still covers the earth, and darkness the peoples,
Above you Yahweh now rises, above you His glory appears! Arise!

The nations come to your light, And kings to your dawning brightness,
Singing the praise of Yahweh, Bringing gold and incense.
Lift up your eyes and look around you,
All are assembling and coming toward you:
Your sons from far away, And your daughters being tenderly carried this day.

No more will the sun give you daylight, Nor moonlight shine on you,
But Yahweh will be your eternal light, Your God will be your splendor.
Your sun will set no more, nor your moon wane,
But Yahweh will be your eternal light,
And your days of mourning will pass from your sight.

The Lord is My Light (Capo 1/A/D/E7/A/F7)

Pauline Mills

The Lord is my light and my salvation.
Whom shall I fear, O whom shall I fear?
The Lord is my light and my salvation.
Whom shall I fear, O whom shall I fear?

The Lord is my strength, the strength of my life.
Of whom then, shall I be afraid?

Hevenu Shalom Aleikem (Dm/D7/Gm/A7)

Traditional

Hevenu shalom aleikem. Hevenu shalom aleikem.
Hevenu shalom aleikem. Hevenu shalom, shalom, shalom aleikem.
(repeat ad libitum, then final time shout HEY!)

A Marriage Blessing

"Blessed are you, O God of our fathers;
Praised be your name forever and ever.
Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever.
You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve
to be his help and support;
and from these two the human race descended.
You said, 'It is not good for man to be alone;
let us make him a partner like himself.'
Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine for a noble purpose.
Call down your mercy on me and on her,
and allow us to live to a happy old age." Tobit 8:5-7

Psalm 126 (capo 2/Am/Dm/E7/F/G/C)

Gabe Meyer

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 tongue with shouts of joy;
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue 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 seeds for sowing,
Shall come home with shouts of joy, come home carrying his sheaves.

Lai, lai, lai...

MORE SONGS

Hymn of Light

Unknown

Joyous light of glory of the immortal Father;
heavenly, holy, blessed Lord Jesus Christ.

We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light.
We sing to God, we sing to God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy to be praised with pure voices for ever.
O Son of God, O Giver of Life; the universe proclaims Your glory.

The Light of Christ (F/C/G/Dm)

Don Fishel

The light of Christ has come into the world.
The light of Christ has come into the world.

All men must be born again to see the kingdom of God.
The water and the Spirit bring new life in God's love.

God gave us His only Son out of love for the world,
so that all men who believe in him will live forever.

The light of God has come to us so that we might have salvation.
From the darkness of our sins we walk into glory with Christ Jesus.

All: The Lord is our light and our salvation.

Leader: Light is the symbol of our 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: 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." (Is 58:13)

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

(The woman of the house lights the candle and says this prayer with her hands raised.)

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

All: Amen.

Song: (Any "light" 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 of 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 (*sukkah shalom*).

All: Shelter us beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Leader: Blessed are You, O Lord our God who spreads the tabernacle of peace (*sukkah shalom*) over us, over all your people, over all who honor the Lord's Day, over all who suffer, and over City of the Lord.

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 a servant of the Church and a blessing to all mankind, through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

4. BLESSING OF THE MEAL

Leader: (Fill everyone's glass) Let us praise God for this symbol of joy and thank Him for His goodness toward us:

For the life He has given us in the Holy Spirit.	Amen!
For health and strength to serve Him.	Amen!
For our families.	Amen!
For our life together in City of the Lord.	Amen!
For our brotherhood, sisterhood and friendship.	Amen!
For the discipline that comes to us from trials and temptations.	Amen!
For the happiness that comes to us out 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." (Dt 5:13)

All: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has created the fruit of the vine.

Song: Hiney mah tov (no other song will do)(A/Am/Em/C/Bm/Em/D)

Hiney mah tov umah naim, shevet achim gam yachad.
Hiney mah tov umah naim, shevet achim gam yachad.
Hiney mah tov, hiney mah tov. Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai.
Hiney mah tov, hiney mah tov. Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai.

Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together.
Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together.
In unity, to dwell in unity. Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai.
In unity, to dwell in unity. Lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai lai.

Leader: This bread and food that 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 brings 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: May the King of Eternal Glory lead us this day to the banquet of eternal life.

All: GOOD LORD'S DAY!
(During dinner it is appropriate to offer toasts and to give thanks to the Lord for the blessings of the past week. By tradition, the first toast goes to the Lord. The songs included are suggestions. Please sing whichever songs you prefer.)

Song: Celebration Song (B7/Em/E/A/D/G/Am) Brent Chambers

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...