

Ceremony for celebrating the Lord's Day



Lighting of the Candle

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made through him and without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. *(John 1:1-5)*

Heavenly Father, in honour of your son, light of the world and author of life, I am 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 among 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 in our homes.

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

Light the candle and recite the following blessing:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, who created light on the first day of the world, and raised your son, the light of the world, on the first day of the week to begin the new creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, king of the universe, who gives us joy as we kindle the light for the Lord's Day.

Amen.

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

The Lord is my light and my salvation. *(Psalm 27:1)*

Let us receive his life and rejoice in his presence.

He is the true light that enlightens every man. *(John 1:9)*

Let us keep his commandments and walk in his ways.

His word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
(ref. Psalm 119:105)

Let us proclaim his goodness and show forth his glory.

We are the light of the world and the salt of the earth.
(ref. Matthew 5:13-14)

The Blessing of the Meal and the setting-aside of the day

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

We welcome it in joy and in peace.

Today we set aside the concerns of the week that we may honour 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.

The Lord himself is with us to refresh and strengthen us.

Let us give glory to God and 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.

To the others: The peace of the Lord be with you.

To each other: The peace of the Lord be with you.

Raise the cup and recite the following prayer:

Let us praise God with this symbol of joy and thank him for the blessings of the past week: For health, strength, and wisdom; for home and our church, for love and friendship – also for the discipline of our trials and temptations, for our work and the happiness that has come to us this week.

All can share reasons for thankfulness.

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel.

From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, king of the universe, who has created the fruit of the vine.

Amen.

Drink from the cup and pass it to the others present.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for this day which is a commemoration of his redeeming work. We welcome this day with gladness and consecrate it to the celebration of his resurrection and of the new creation founded in him. Lord our God, you have brought us into the rest of Christ. Lord our God, you have brought us into the rest of Christ.

Now we live with him through the Holy Spirit and we look for the day when we will dwell with him in your everlasting kingdom.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, who favours your people in the days set aside to your honour.

Amen.

Lift the bread and recite the following blessing:

The eyes of all look to you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

You open your hand, you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, king of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

Amen.

Distribute the bread – all eat.