



Christian Community of God's Delight

*A Diocesan Private Association of Christ's Faithful and a
Founding Member of
The North American Network of Charismatic Covenant
Communities*

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LORD'S DAY CELEBRATION

“If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from following your own pursuits on my holy day; If you call the sabbath a delight, the LORD's holy day glorious; If you glorify it by not following your ways, seeking your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs— Then you shall delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will nourish you with the heritage of Jacob, your father, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

“Nations shall behold your vindication, and all kings your glory; You shall be called by a new name bestowed by the mouth of the LORD. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. No more shall you be called “Forsaken,” nor your land called “Desolate,” But you shall be called “My Delight is in her,” and your land “Espoused.” For the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be espoused.”

“Therefore, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God. And whoever enters into God's rest, rests from his own works as God did from his. Therefore, let us strive to enter into that rest”.

(Is 58:13-14, Is 62:2-4, Heb 4:9-11a)

The Lords Day Celebration

The Lord's Day is a time of rest each week to give honor to God our Father for the blessings of Creation and to our Lord Jesus for his death and Resurrection and to the Holy Spirit for His ongoing provisions in our lives together. We celebrate our communion with the Trinity during this blessed time with prayer, praise, and worship.

What follows is a special ceremony, within the context of an evening meal, to mark the beginning of the Lord's Day at sunset (dinner time) each Saturday evening. The Lord's Day continues to be celebrated in the Lord's peace and rest until Sunday evening. An optional closing is provided at the end for this time.

Family and friends unfamiliar with this practice should be reminded that this communal ceremony is not a Eucharist or communion service; nor is it intended to replace one. It is, however, a special way of obeying God's commandment to keep this day sacred and holy. This celebration, like the Eucharist, does use the motif of a family meal following the common heritage of Israel (as the Lord did when he celebrated the Last Supper). Following Christian tradition, we celebrate the Sabbath or Lord's Day on Sunday instead of Saturday. Our formal celebration and observance of the Lord's Day can be one of the greatest signs to the world that God is our creator, Jesus Christ has truly risen, and the Holy Spirit is among us today.

In keeping with the nature of the Lord's Day celebration, the meal should be a special one, carefully prepared and different from normal weekday meals, although not necessarily elaborate or expensive. When celebrated regularly in a home, 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 (Gen 2:3). Our manner of dress should also honor the Lord. Participants should wear something appropriate for a nice dinner to which guests have been invited. Jesus is present where two or more are gathered in his name.

Special items for celebration the Lord's Day:

- A bible turned to the appropriate reading(s)
- A copy of the Lord's Day booklet for each person
- An unlit candle and lighter in front of woman of the house
- An empty wine glass at each place
- Carafes or bottles of wine and/or grape juice
- A loaf of bread

The head of the household in which the celebration is taking place should select those who will serve as: Reader, Woman of the house, and Leader. They will read the parts of the ceremony not read by All.

The overall goal of the Lord's Day ceremony is to remind us that "the day of the Lord is at hand." It is a holy day, and we are called as a people to instill in our culture and families an attitude of joyful anticipation and observance of 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." Our weekly celebration expectantly prefigures the final coming of our Lord and our eternal celebration at the Wedding Banquet of our Lord with his spouse the Church.

The Lords Day Celebration

1. WELCOMING THE LORD'S DAY

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

All: **We welcome the Lord's Day with Peace and Joy.**

Leader: Today, we set aside the cares of the past week so that we may honor our Lord Jesus and celebrate His Resurrection. Today, we cease from our work to praise and worship our Triune God and remember the eternal life to which we are called.

All: **Let us enter to God's rest and cease from our labors as God did from His.**

Song: *(Opening Song) – Sample song:*

HINEH MA TOV

*Hineh ma tov uma na'im
Shevet achim gam yachad. 3x*

HOW GOOD IT IS

*How good and pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together. 2x*

Leader: (Leader reads a scripture such as from Sunday's readings)

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 divided light from darkness. God called the light ‘Day’ and darkness He called ‘Night’, and evening came and morning came: the first day. (Gen. 1:3-5)

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

All: **The Lord is our light and our salvation.** (Ps 27:1)

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

All: **His word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light for my path.** (Ps 119:105)

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 all that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.** (Mt 5:14a, 16)

Lords Day Celebration (Cont.)

Woman of the House: Heavenly Father, creator of the Universe, in honor of your Son, Light of the World and Author of Life, I am about to light the candle symbolic of beginning the Lords Day. On this day you raised your son Jesus from the dead and began a new creation. Our celebration of His resurrection on this day fills us with your peace and blessings. Give us your Grace and let your Holy Spirit live abundantly in us through your kindness. Make us worthy of walking in your son's path, being faithful to his teaching and always willing to love and serve you. Take away from us all anxiety, darkness, and fear. Let your peace, light and joy always remain in this community for in you is the source of all life.

All: **In You, O Lord, is the fountain of life and by your light, we see the light of Christ.** (Ps 36:9)

(Woman lights the candle and prays with hands extended towards the candle)

Woman (cont.): Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who created the light in the first day, and raised your son, the light of the world, from the dead to begin the new creation. Blessed are you Lord God, King of the Universe, who have make us a holy people by your loving work and taught us to light a candle to symbolize the Lord's Day.

All: **Amen.**

Song: *Sample song:* The Light of Christ

The light of Christ Has come into the world (Descant)

The light of Christ Has come into the world (Descant)

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 up His only Son Out of love for the world

So that all men who Believe in Him will live forever

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

Lords Day Celebration (Cont.)

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.** (Ps 57:1,
61:4 & 91:4)

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 or 4:6)

All: **Happy the people with such blessings. Happy the people whose God is the Lord.** (Psalm 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. (Ps 144:12) 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. (Eph 1:3, 1 Pet 1:3)

All: **Amen!**

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

Leader: Let us praise God for this symbol of joy and give Him thanks for the blessings of the past week:

(Leader reads following litany of blessings with All responding: Amen!)

For the salvation we have in our Lord Jesus Christ...	Amen!
For the life of grace He has given us in the Holy Spirit...	Amen!
For health, strength, and wisdom to serve Him...	Amen!
For our families and homes...	Amen!
For our life together in a covenant community of faith...	Amen!
For our brotherhood, sisterhood, and friendship...	Amen!

Lords Day Celebration (Cont.)

For the discipline that comes from trials & temptations...

Amen!

For the happiness that comes from the joy of fulfilling work...

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 5:13-14a)

All: **Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who has created the fruit of the vine.** (Gen 1:11)

(The Lord is toasted)

Leader: **(Raising the bread)** This bread and the food we are about to share symbolizes the abundant love of the Lord for His people. (Ps 78:24) As we partake of this bounty, may we also share the fruit of the Holy Spirit with one another, in love and in truth. (Gal 5:22 & Wis 3:9)

All: **Blessed are You, O Lord our God, who causes the earth to yield food for all.** (Gen 1:29)

(The bread is passed)

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

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

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

All: **Amen!**

Leader: May the Lord Jesus grant us a life of peace.

All: **Amen!**

Leader: May the Lord Jesus grant us a life of joy.

All: **Amen!**

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

All: **GOOD LORD’S DAY!**

Lords Day Celebration (Cont.)

5. BLESSING AFTER DINNER (Optional)

Leader: Let us bless to the Lord

All: **Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and for ever** (Ps 113:2)

Leader: Let us bless the Lord our God in whose generosity we have participated.

All: **Blessed are you Lord our God, because we have participated of your generosity and live because of your kindness.**

Leader: Blessed are you our Lord God, for the rest that we enjoy this day; we received this day with happiness and we completely consecrate it to the celebration of your resurrection and the redemption in which we find ourselves. Come with your grace to your servants and show us your Glory.

All: **Blessed are you Lord our God that gives rest to your people. Amen.**

Leader: "The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!" (Num 6:24-26)

All: **Amen.**

Leader: That the King's eternal glory guide you on this day to the banquet of eternal life. (1 Pet 5:10)

All: **Amen.**