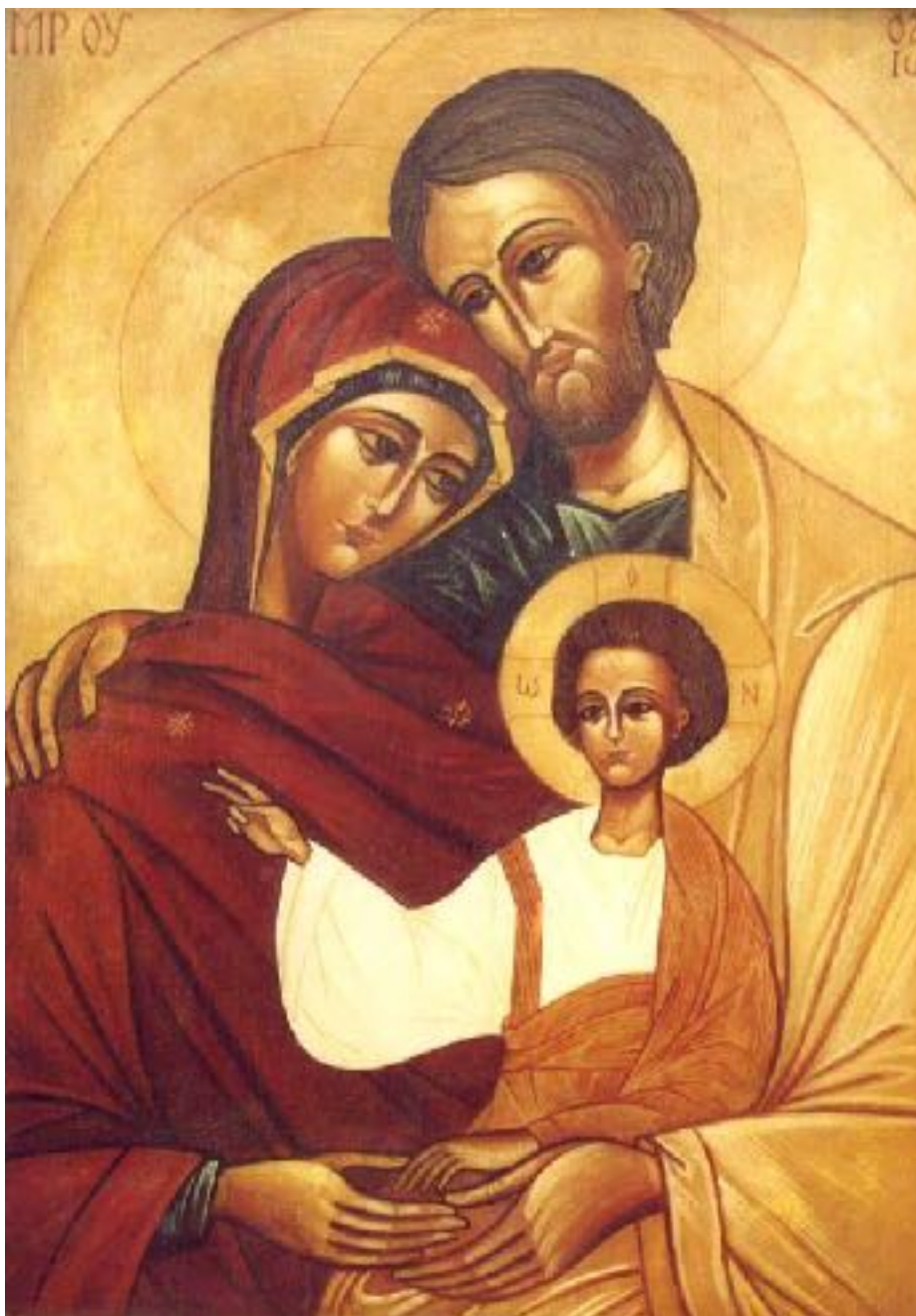


Celebrating the Lord's Day



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Produced by the Community of Nazareth
to mark the Sword of the Spirit Year of the Lord's Day 2007

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Foreword

This booklet contains a way of making the Lord's Day a family or household celebration. It is a way of making the whole day a feast day. The booklet contains an order for an opening meal to begin the Lord's Day and a closing meal to conclude it. It is modelled on the Sabbath meals as Jesus and His disciples would probably have celebrated them, but the prayers have been changed to bring out the significance of the Lord's Day. It contains one way of making the Lord's Day a delight and a source of life for the whole Christian people. A day specially set apart for the Lord is a day which he blesses with His presence.

The Lord's Day Celebration

“Leader” is the head of the household, most commonly the father of the family. “Assistant” is either the person next in authority or next eldest to the Leader, most commonly the mother of the family. “Group” is all the household members and any guests who may be present. When the letters “G,” “A,” and “L” appear in parentheses, it indicates that the reading may be done responsively as marked, if more group participation is desired.

Opening Ceremony

The Lighting of the Candle

The Assistant usually presides over the Lighting of the Candle. For a shortened form of the ceremony you may omit the passage from John 1:1-5.

Assistant In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

G All things were made through him and without him nothing was made that has been made.

A In him was life and the life was the light of men.

G The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. (Jn 1:1-5)

Assistant Heavenly Father, in honour 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 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 among us.

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

Light the candle and recite the following blessing.

Assistant 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 give us joy as we kindle the light for the Lord's Day.

Group Amen

For a short form of the ceremony, the following set of exhortations and responses may be omitted.

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

Group The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Leader Let us receive His life and rejoice in His presence.

Group He is the true light that enlightens every man.

Leader Let us keep His commandments and walk in His ways.

Group His word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Leader Let us proclaim His goodness and show forth His glory.

Group We are the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

The Blessing of the Meal and the Setting-Aside of the Day

The Opening Proclamation. *The following blessing is a proclamation to introduce the meal and normally would be said entirely by the Leader but can also be read responsively, as indicated.*

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

G Let us welcome it in joy and peace

L 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.

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

L Let us welcome God among us and give him glory

G Let us love one another in Christ.

L 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.

It is possible to insert here a song and/or a time of praise.

The Blessing of the Wine. *Pour wine into the cup, raise it, and recite the following prayer.*

Leader 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 our life together in _____,¹ for the discipline of our trials and temptations, for the happiness that has come to us out of our work.

The following section of the prayer will vary depending on the season. The Leader should pick the appropriate form.

Standard Form

Leader Let us thank him this day especially for the great blessings he has bestowed on us in Christ. From His fullness we have all received grace upon grace. We who were dead through sin have been brought to life together with Christ and raised up with him and made to sit in heavenly places with him. Lord our God, you have brought us into the rest of Christ.

Group 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.

The Forty Days

Leader Let us thank him this day especially for the victory over sin that he won for us upon the cross and for this season in which we turn our eyes to him with renewed fervour, hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Lord our God, we have fasted this week that we might seek your face.

Group And now we eat and drink with joy as we celebrate your salvation.

Easter Season – between Easter and Pentecost

Leader Let us thank him this day especially for the great victory he has won for us in Christ. By His resurrection he has triumphed over sin, conquered death, defeated Satan, and won for us the riches of an eternal inheritance. We who were perishing through sin have been brought to life together with Christ and raised up with him and made to sit in heavenly places with him. Lord our God, you have given us a new birth through the resurrection of Christ.

Group 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.

¹ Here insert the name of your church, community, prayer group, and/or family.

Advent

Leader Let us thank him this day especially for the salvation we receive in Christ. By His coming in the flesh he ransomed us from sin and the power of death, and by His coming again he will renew all things, destroy every evil, and establish the eternal reign of God on earth. Lord our God, you have made us your sons through Jesus Christ.

Group 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.

Christmas Season – between Christmas and Epiphany

Leader Let us thank him this day especially for the great blessings he has bestowed on us in Christ. In him the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, reconciling earth to heaven, and imparting to us the fullness of life. In him the Word became flesh, enabling men and women of flesh to become children of God. Lord our God, you have revealed to us your glory in Jesus your Son and have made us partakers of the divine nature.

Group 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.

From this point onwards the prayer continues without seasonal variations.

Leader Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who have created the fruit of the vine.

Group Amen.

The Setting Aside of the Day. *This blessing welcomes the day and consecrates it to the celebration of the Lord's resurrection.*

Leader Blessed are you, Lord our God, for the true rest you have given us in your Son Jesus and 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. Look graciously upon your servants and show us your glory. Blessed are you, Lord or God, who favour your people in the days set aside to your honour.

Group Amen.

The leader drinks from the cup and passes it to the others present.

The Blessing of the Bread. *The Leader takes bread and recites the following blessing.*

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

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

Leader Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who bring forth bread from the earth.

Group Amen.

Distribute the bread and begin the meal.

Blessings after the Meal

After the meal another cup of wine is poured, and the following blessings are recited and the cup raised.

Leader Let us bless the Lord.

Group Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forever.

Leader Let us bless our God, of whose bounty we have partaken.

Group Blessed be our God, of whose bounty we have partaken and through whose goodness we live.

Leader Blessed are you, Lord our God, who feed the whole world with your goodness, with grace, with steadfast love and mercy. Through your great goodness food has never failed us. May it not fail us for ever and ever, for your great Name's sake, since you nourish and sustain all beings, and do good to all, and provide food for all your creatures whom you have created. Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who give food to all.

Group Blessed be His name forever.

Leader Blessed are you, Lord our God, for by your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading. Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, for giving us new life in your Son.

Group Blessed be His name forever.

Leader Have mercy, Lord our God, upon your people who belong to your Son, the dwelling place of your Spirit. Grant that the Christian people throughout the world may attain the unity for which Jesus prayed on the eve of His sacrifice, and that we in _____² may be a sign of that unity and a means of its growth. May all y our people be renewed in the power of your Spirit so that we might be without spot or blemish and ready for your Son's return. Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Ruler and Builder of your people.

Group Blessed be His name for ever.

As the cup is being passed, the Leader recites the following blessing from Numbers 6:24-26.

Leader May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Group Amen.

² Here insert the name of your church, community, prayer group and/or family.

Closing Ceremony (for Sunday Evening)

Blessing before the Meal

Begin with a song and perhaps a time of praise. The following prayer, adapted from the blessing of Zechariah from Luke 1, may be included at this point, or the Leader may decide to move directly to the next prayer.

Leader Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed His people,
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of His servant David,
as he spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old,
that we should be saved from our enemies,
and from the hand of all who hate us;
to perform the mercy promised to our fathers,
and to remember His holy covenant.
The oath which He swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve
him without fear,
in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.
For the day has dawned upon us from on high
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The Leader pours a cup of wine, raises the cup, and continues as follows.

Leader Behold, God is my salvation.

Group I will trust and will not be afraid.

Leader For God the Lord is my strength and song.

Group And He has become my salvation.

Leader Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
Salvation belongs to the Lord.

Group Your blessing be upon your people.

Leader The Lord of Hosts is with us.

Group The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Leader God's people had light and joy and gladness and honour.

Group So be it with us.

Leader I will lift the cup of salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord.
Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who have
created the fruit of the vine.

Group Amen.

*As the cup is being passed, the following blessing is recited over some bread
if the ceremony is being conducted within the context of a meal.*

Leader Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who bring
forth bread from the earth.

Group Amen.

Distribute the bread and begin the meal.

Prayer after the Meal

(the Concluding of the Day)

The Leader lifts a cup of wine and recites the following blessing.

Leader Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who sanctify
us through faith in the resurrection of Christ and bless us in this day
set apart to celebrate His victory. Blessed are you, Lord our God,
who have given us new life in your Son.

Group Amen.

*Pass the common cup of wine and recite the following prayer while the cup is
being passed.*

Leader Father in Heaven, grant that we may begin the working days which
draw near to us in peace; freed from all sin and transgression, filled
with the joy of your Holy Spirit, and following in the ways of our Son
Jesus. May we be fully clothed in him, the New Man, created after
your likeness in true righteousness and holiness.

Father of Mercy, bless and prosper the work of our hands. Make us
fruitful in every good work, unwearied in well-doing, knowing that in
Christ our labour is not in vain. May all that we do, in word or deed,
be to the praise of your glory through Jesus your Son.

Our God and King, guide and defend the people called by your
Name. Strengthen and prosper all who cherish thoughts of good

towards your people, and fulfil their purposes, but frustrate those who devise evil plans against your people, and make their designs of no effect; as it is said, "Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; speak a word, but it will not stand, for god is with us" (Is 8:10).

Open to us, Father of Mercies and Lord of Forgiveness, in this week and in the weeks to come, the gates of light and blessing, of redemption and salvation, of heavenly help and rejoicing, of holiness and peace, of the study of your teaching, and of prayer. In us also let the Scripture be fulfilled:

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who heralds peace, bring happiness, proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." (Is 52:7)

Group Amen.

The leader extinguishes the Lord's Day candle, if it has been left burning throughout the day. A song may be sung to conclude.

Appendix

Suggested Songs

BEHOLD GOD IS MY SALVATION *Behold*

Behold, God is my Salvation;
I will trust and will not be
afraid.

For the Lord my God is my
Strength
And my Song;
He also has become my
Salvation. (x2)

La la la...

Dauermann
Co. © 1972 Lillenas Publishing
Stuart

Your name delivers all the
nations.
Your name is life and breath to
me.

Espinosa
Publishing © 1987 Mercy/Vineyard
Eddie

GIVE THANKS

Give thanks with a grateful
heart.
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's
given
Jesus Christ, His Son. (x2)
Last time: ... Give thanks.

BLESSED BE YOUR HOLY NAME

Blessed be Your Holy Name,
Lord Jesus,
I will never cease to give You
praise,
You are Messiah, Deliverer,
The Holy One of Israel.

Blessed by Your Holy Name,
Lord Jesus,
There's no other name
By which we're saved,
You are Messiah, Deliverer,
Blessed be Your Name.

Your name is high above all
others.
Your name has set the
captives free.

And now let the weak say,
"I am strong", let the poor say,
"I am rich", because of what
The Lord has done for us.
(x2)

Smith
Music © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna!
Henry

HE IS EXALTED

He is exalted,
The King is exalted on high,
I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted,
And I will praise His name.

He is the Lord,
Forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth
Rejoice in His holy name.

He is exalted,
The King is exalted on high.

Paris
Music

© 1985 Straightway / Mountain Spring

Twila

**HOW PRICELESS IS YOUR
STEADFAST LOVE**
In Your Light We See Light

How priceless is your
steadfast love,
O Lord, far more than life
itself.
In the shadow of Your wings
Shall all who seek find refuge
and help.

For in You is the fountain of
life!
In Your light we see light!!
For in You is the fountain of
life!
In Your light do we see
light!

Through the abundance
Of Your steadfast love
We come into Your holy place.
In the fear of You we worship
At Your throne of mercy and
grace.

We feast on the abundance
Of Your house, as on the
richest food.
From Your river of delights
We drink our fill of all that is
good.

Keating
Word

© 1988 Servants of the

John

I WILL ENTER HIS GATES
He Has Made Me Glad

I will enter His gates
With thanksgiving in my heart
I will enter His courts with
praise
I will say "This is the day
That the Lord has made,"
I will rejoice for He has made
me glad.

He has made me glad,
He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for He has made
me glad.

(x2)

Brethorst
Inc.

Leona von
© 1976 Maranatha! Praise

**LORD I LIFT YOUR NAME ON
HIGH**

Lord, I lift Your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing Your
praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life;
I'm so glad You came to save
us.

You came from Heaven to
earth
To show the way,
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave to the sky,
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

Founds
Inc.

Rick
© 1989 Maranatha Praise

OPEN YOUR EYES

Open your eyes see the glory
of the King
Lift up your voice and His
praises sing.
I love You Lord; I will proclaim;
Alleluia, I bless Your name.

Tuttle

Carl

Music

© 1985 Shadow Spring

SALVATION BELONGS TO OUR GOD

Salvation belongs to our God,
Who sits on the throne, & unto
the Lamb.
Praise and glory, wisdom and
thanks,
Honour and power and
strength.

Be to our God forever and
ever
Be to our God forever and
ever
Be to our God forever and
ever
Amen.

And we, the redeemed shall
be strong
In purpose and unity,
declaring aloud,
Praise and glory, wisdom and
thanks,
Honour and power and
strength.

Turner

Adrian Howard & Pat

Ltd.

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The light of Christ
Has come into the world.
(x2)

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 for ever.

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.

Fischel

Donald

Music

© 1974 Word of God

THERE IS A REDEEMER *Thank You O My Father*

There is a Redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God,
Messiah,
Holy One.

Thank You, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit 'till
The work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer,
Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God,
Messiah,
O for sinners slain.

When I stand in glory,
I will see His face,
And there I'll serve my King
forever,
In that Holy Place.

Sievright
Inc.

Melody Green-
© 1982 Birdwing Music / BMG Songs

THIS IS THE DAY

This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made,
That the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice, let us rejoice
And be glad in it,
And be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord
has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in
it.
This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made.

This is the day, this is the day
That He rose again, ...

Garrett
Song

Les
© 1967, 1980 Scripture in

YOU ARE EXALTED LORD ABOVE ALL ELSE

Above All Else

Mighty Warrior

You are exalted Lord above all
else,
We place you in the highest
place,
Above all else.
Right now where we stand
And everywhere we go,
We place you in the highest
place,
So all the world will know;

You are a mighty warrior,
Dressed in armour of light,
Crushing the deeds of
darkness,
Leading us on in the fight.
Through the blood of Jesus,
Victorious we stand,
We place you in the highest
place,
Above all else in the land.

Dearman
Music

Kirk and Deby
© 1988 Integrity's Hosanna

WORTHY OF PRAISE

Worthy of praise, God of the
ages,
Alpha, Omega, beginning and
end.
Ancient of days reigning
forever.
God You are worthy of praise.
Lord You are worthy of praise.

Gerrit Gustafson, Tom Brooks
© 1988 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Further Materials

***Community of Nazareth
Songbook***

2005

***Family Worship
The Sword of the Spirit***

2004

