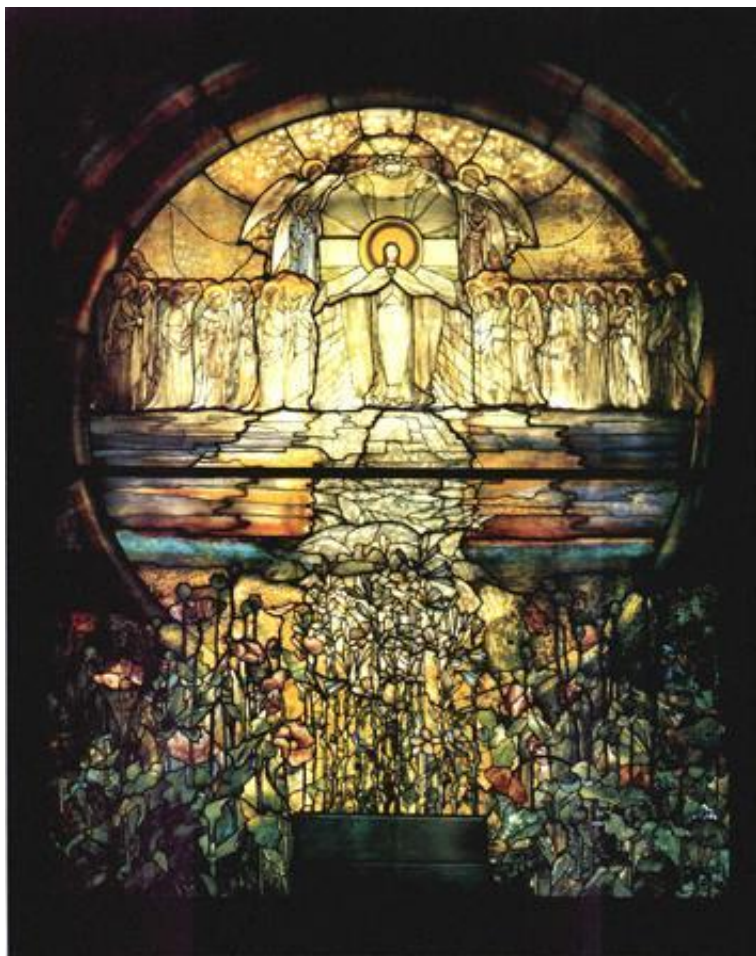


# The Family Vigil



**Ordinary Time**

## **Saturday Family Vigil on the Sabbath Day**

*The Sabbath and the family alike were instituted in Eden, and in God's purpose they are indissolubly linked together. On this day more than on any other, it is possible for us to live the life of Eden. It was God's plan for the members of the family to be associated in work and study, in worship and recreation, the father as priest of his household, and both father and mother as teachers and companions of their children.*

*In ancient times God commanded the Jewish people to observe a weekly Sabbath, or day of rest (Exodus 20:8), and the Church has obeyed that commandment as well. Sadly, Sunday is typically viewed even by many Catholics as a time for catching up on chores that weren't taken care of in the previous week. Meanwhile, many people have jobs that require them to work through the weekend. Often the father hardly sees the faces of his children throughout the week. He is almost wholly deprived of opportunity for companionship or instruction. But God's love has set a limit to the demands of toil. Over the Sabbath He places His merciful hand. On His own day He preserves for the family opportunity for communion with Him, with creation, and with one another.*

*Since the Sabbath is the memorial of creative power, it is the day above all others when we should acquaint ourselves with God through His works. In the minds of the children the very thought of the Sabbath should be bound up with the beauty of natural things. Blessed is the family who can go to the place of worship on the Sabbath as Jesus and His disciples went to the synagogue--across the fields, along the shores of the lake, or through the groves. Blessed is the father and mother who can teach their children God's written word;*

*By such associations parents may bind their children to their hearts, and thus to God, by ties that can never be broken.*

*The Vigil is held at the family altar or at the dining area or at some convenient place in the house.*

## Acclamation

Father: Blessed be the holy, eternal, and undivided Trinity:  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. ☩

**Members:** *And blessed be His glorious Kingdom, tonight and  
always, throughout all ages. Amen.*

## Summary of the Law

Father: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

*All may kneel*

## Act of Penitence

Father: Pentecost marked the completion of Christ's work. He came to us as one of us in His Incarnation, manifested Himself as the Son of God in Epiphany, and suffered and died as one of us in His Holy Week Passion. He rose from the grave in power at the Easter Resurrection, and rose to sit at the right hand of the Father in His Ascension. All this made us fit vessels for the Holy Spirit, Who has filled us with the same life that raised Jesus from the dead.

Having been forgiven, restored, and empowered, now we are commissioned to do the same works Christ did, and live His life as a witness. And when we fall short of this high calling, we have also been given the word of reconciliation; the promise of God for forgiveness to those who confess their sins. So let us turn to Him now and seek His mercy.

## Confession

*Time of silence for examination of conscience, then all say together the following confession:*

**All:**            ***Almighty God, my heavenly Father, I have sinned against You through my own fault. I have wavered in my love for You; I have put my own interests above that of all others; and I have not lived out the full reality of Christ in me. Forgive me and cleanse me, O faithful and righteous God, that I may continually walk in the light of Your fellowship. Amen.***

## Absolution

Father:            The Almighty and Merciful Lord, for the sake of the Blood of the Cross of His Son Jesus Christ, has laid not our sins to our charge, but has forgiven us all that is past.

He has granted us the grace to put away the evil and to cling to the good, that we may walk with perfect hearts before Him all our days. ***Amen.*** ☩

*All may stand*

Father:            The Lord is with you.

**All:**            ***And also with you.***

Father:            Let us pray.

We thank You, Father, for Your promise of rest and peace. As we begin our Sabbath rest this evening, abide with us, for true rest is found only in Your presence; and as we continue our Sabbath tomorrow morning, manifest Yourself among us as the Lord of the Sabbath in our midst.

**All:**            ***Amen.***

## Prayer for Protection and Deliverance

Member: Blessed are You, Lord God, God of our Fathers, Creator of day and night, our Guardian and Deliverer; cause us this night to lie down in Your peace, and in the morning raise us up to life.

Spread over us the Tabernacle of Your presence, and direct us aright by Your good counsel. Shelter us beneath the shadow of Your wings; for You, O God, are our good and gracious King, and to You we lift up our praise. Blessed are You, Lord our God, the Guardian of Your people forever. *Amen.*

Member: Father, You give us Your blessing.

*All: The Eternal God is our refuge, and upholding us are the everlasting arms of His love and mercy.*

Member: Lord Jesus, You give us Your peace.

*All: His strength is made perfect in our weakness.*

Member: Comforter, You abide with us.

*All: The power of the Most High overshadows us.*

*All: Worthy of praise from every mouth, worthy of worship from every creature, is Your great and glorious Name, O eternal and indivisible Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You were, You are, and You will be; our God, forever and ever. Amen.*

## Lighting of the Candle(s)

*Candles at the family altar may now be lit.*

Father: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you. For behold, darkness covers the land, deep gloom enshrouds the peoples. But over you the Lord will arise, and His glory will appear upon you. Nations will stream to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

**All:**            *Amen. Thanks be to God!*

*All may be seated*

## **Proclaiming of the Sunday Gospel**

*(Please refer to the inserted schedule)*

*A time of silent meditation follows, then the Responsorial Psalm is proclaimed*

## **Responsorial Psalm**

*(Please refer to the inserted schedule)*

## **Reflection**

*The Father may assign other members of the household to give a short reflection, or a group discussion may take place at this time.*

*(All stand; a song or chorus may be sung, if desired)*

## **Litanies**

*Other members of the household may be assigned to lead the Litanies.*

Leader:            With all our hearts and with all our minds, in peace  
let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace that is from above, and for the  
salvation of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:**            *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader:            For the peace of the whole world, and for the unity  
and welfare of the one holy catholic and apostolic  
Church, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:**            *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader:            For His peace upon this community, and upon all  
who serve Him here, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:**            *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For His peace upon all our bishops, priests, and deacons, and upon all the holy people of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For His peace upon this land, and upon the homes in which His people dwell, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For His peace upon all those who are this night destitute or homeless, upon all who suffer, all in danger, need, or anxiety, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For the faithful departed, that He would grant them peace where the just repose, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: For His angel of peace to guard and watch over us, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: That this night we may rest secure in His peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: Calling to remembrance all the saints in Heaven and on in earth, in peace let us commend ourselves, each other, and all our lives unto the Lord.

**All:** *To You, our God and King, lover of men, to Whom are due all honor and glory, now and for ages. Amen.*

**The Lord's Prayer**      *(Spoken or sung)*

**Prayer of Preparation**

**All:**                *O God of salvation and lover of all people, we pray that when we gather together in the Communion of the Holy Spirit to celebrate the divine liturgy tomorrow, our service may be found acceptable to You and worthy of Your greatness. Fill us with Your heavenly grace as we partake of the heavenly and life-giving mysteries of the Body and Blood of Your Son; for the glory of Your Kingdom. Amen.*

## **The Proclamation**

Father:            Glory to You, O Christ, the true Light.

**All:**                *Christ is the Lord!*

Father:            Glory to You, O Christ, the Light of the world.

**All:**                *Christ is the Lord!*

Father:            Glory to You, O Christ, the Light from the Light.

**All:**                *Christ is the Lord!*

## **Blessing**

The Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, grant you His blessing, now and always. **Amen** □ ✠