

# Family Vigil



Season of Easter

## 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: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

**Members:** *The Lord is risen indeed! Hallelujah!*

## Introduction

Father: Dear family, through the Paschal mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with Him to new life. We had lost our hope, yet He has opened our eyes to what the Scriptures foretold, that first He must die and then He would rise and ascend into His Father's glorious presence.

The risen Lord has breathed on our minds and opened our eyes, that we may know Him in the breaking of the bread and follow Him in His risen life.

**Members:** *God has granted this through Christ our Lord.*

## Collect

Father: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father and God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for He is alive and has become the Lord of life. You have raised us with Him, and through Your Spirit You renew the gift of life within us.

As we increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, help us as Your people to grow toward the fullness of eternal life with You; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All:** *Amen.*

## Vigil Proclamation

Member: The Lord is the portion of my inheritance and my cup;

*All: Blessed be God forever.*

Member: The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.

*All: Blessed be God forever.*

Member: I will bless the Lord Who has counseled me; Indeed, my mind instructs me in the night.

*All: Blessed be God forever.*

Member: I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

*All: Blessed be God forever.*

Member: Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely.

*All: Blessed be God forever.*

Member: For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Neither will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

*All: Blessed be God forever.*

Member: You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

*All: Blessed be God forever.*

## Lighting of the Candle(s)

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

Father: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!  
Exult, all creation around God's throne!

*Members: Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!*

Father: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King!

*Members: Christ has conquered! Glory fills us! Darkness vanishes forever!*

Father: Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you!

*Members: Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!*

## Reading of the Sunday Gospel

*Other members of the household may be assigned to read the Sunday Gospel and lead the Psalm.*

*Please refer to the Lectionary posted in the website*

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## 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.*

*(A song or chorus may be sung here, if desired)*

## Litanies

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

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

***Members: For His mercy endures forever.***

Leader: Who has loved us from all eternity, and remembered us when we were in trouble;

***Members: For His mercy endures forever.***

Leader: Who for us and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was made flesh of the Virgin Mary, and became man;

**Members:** *For His mercy endures forever.*

Leader: Who by His cross and suffering has redeemed the world, and washed us from our sins in His own blood;

**Members:** *For His mercy endures forever.*

Leader: Who on the third day rose from the dead, and has given us the victory;

**Members:** *For His mercy endures forever.*

Leader: Who ascended on high, and opened for us the everlasting doors;

**Members:** *For His mercy endures forever.*

Leader: Who is seated at the right hand of God, and ever lives to make intercession for us;

**Members:** *For His mercy endures forever.*

Leader: For the gift of His Spirit, and for the holy Church Catholic;

**Members:** *Blessed be Christ!*

Leader: For the means of grace, and for the hope of glory:

**Members:** *Blessed be Christ!*

Leader: For the triumph of His Gospel, and the lives of His saints;

**Members:** *Blessed be Christ!*

Leader: In joy and in sorrow, in life and in death;

**Members:** *Blessed be Christ!*

Leader: Blessing and honor, thanksgiving and praise, more than we can utter or conceive, be to You, O holy and glorious Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, by all angels, all mankind, and all creatures, forever and ever;

**Members:**     *Amen.*

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

Father:           Let us pray.

**All:**            *Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil.*

*For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory; forever and ever. Amen. ✕*

### Concluding Prayer

Father:           The Lord be with you.

**Members:**     *And with your spirit.*

Father:           Let us pray.

O God, the source of eternal light, shed forth Your unending ray upon us who watch for You, that our lips may praise You, our lives bless You, and our worship tomorrow give You glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:**            *Amen.*

## 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.*

## Proclamation and Blessing

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

**Members:**    *Christ is the Lord!*

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

**Members:**    *Christ is the Lord!*

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

**Members:**    *Christ is the Lord!*

Father:            God the Father, Maker of men; God the Son, born among men; God the Spirit, sanctifying men; the One Everlasting God bless and keep you tonight and always.

**Members:**    *Amen.*

*(All kneel. Silence is kept for a time)*