

Lord's Day Domestic Church Private Devotion (Saturday Evening's)

Background: Setting aside time on Saturday evening (the Lord's day begins the night before) is a great way for a family to honor God and prepare one's hearts for the Divine Liturgy the next day. Liturgically, this is usually marked by a Vespers service, but not everyone has access to Vespers, but this does not mean that family cannot worship in a way that is private and proper for the domestic church. Below is a simple private service that a family can do before sitting down for their Saturday dinner (as an example).

Service:

Leader: God be merciful to me a sinner. - (Pause briefly)

Leader: Glory to you, our God, glory to you!

Leader: Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, treasury of blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.

All Together: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us (3x)

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

All Together: Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins; Master, forgive our transgressions; Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Leader: Lord, have mercy (3x)

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

All Together: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy Kingdom come, they 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.

Leader: Lord, have mercy (12x)

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Leader: Let this light be an image of Christ the Light who conquers all sin, death, and darkness (Light Candle)

Selected Reader (preferably a Child):

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (the prologue of the Gospel of St. John)

Selected Reader (preferably a Child):

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. This one was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and apart from him not one thing came into being that has come into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of humanity. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Selected Reader (preferably a Child):

- Matthew 18.13-19 (Authority)
- John 6.27-68 (Eucharist)
- Psalm 50/51 (Forgiveness)
- Sunday Epistle & Gospel Reading

(OPTIONAL) The Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom

Leader: Is there anyone here who is a devout lover of God? Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival. Is there anyone who is a grateful servant? Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord! Are there any now weary with fasting? Let them now receive their wages! If they have toiled from the first hour, let them receive their due reward; If any have come after the third hour, let him with gratitude join in the Feast! And he that arrived after the sixth hour, let him not doubt; for he shall have sustained no loss. And if any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him not hesitate; but let him come too. And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour, let him not be afraid by reason of his delay. For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first. He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh hour, as well as to him who toiled from the first. To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows. He accepts the work as he greets the endeavor. The deed He honors and the intention He commends. Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord! First and last alike receive your reward; rich and poor, rejoice together! Sober and slothful, celebrate the day! You that have kept the fast, and you that have not, rejoice today for the Table is richly laden! Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one. Let no one go away hungry; partake, all, of the cup of faith. Enjoy all the riches of His goodness! Let no one grieve at his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free. He has destroyed it by enduring it. He destroyed Hades when he descended into it. He put it into an uproar even as it tasted of His flesh. Isaiah foretold this when he said, You, O Hell, have been troubled by encountering Him below. Hell was in an uproar because it was done away with. It was in an uproar, because it was mocked. It was in an uproar, for it was destroyed. It is in an uproar, for it is annihilated. It is in an uproar because it is now made captive. Hell took a body, and it discovered God. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see. O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you, O death, are annihilated! Christ is risen, and the evil ones are cast down! Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life is liberated! Christ is risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ, having risen from the dead, is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen!

Creed

All Together: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, the only begotten, born of the Father before all ages. Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in essence with the Father; through whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried. He rose on the third day according to the scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he is coming again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life, who proceeds from the Father. Together with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified; he spoke through the prophets. In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I profess one baptism for the remission of sins. I expect the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(OPTIONAL) Meal Blessing – if eating a evening meal soon afterwards

Leader: The poor shall eat and be satisfied, those who seek the Lord shall praise Him; their hearts shall live forever

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Leader: Lord, have mercy (3x)

Family Member: “Give the Blessing”

Leader: Christ our God, bless the food and drink of Thy servants, for you are holy always, now and ever and forever. Amen.