

Family Worship on Sundays

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT LAETARE SUNDAY (REJOICE)

(Gather at the family table)

The one presiding may say: The first followers of Jesus gathered for a meal on Sunday or the night before, just like we are gathered here today (tonight). At their meals they remembered Jesus' life and service to others, his death and new life. So today (tonight) we do the same, remembering that Jesus is here with us, for he said, "Whenever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them."

(If evening, candles may be lit)

*Presider takes a loaf of bread and breaks it
As the food is served, the presider says*

Presider: We give you thanks God our Father (Source) for the life and knowledge you have given us in Jesus your Servant.

ALL: **Glory to you now and forever.**

Presider: As the grains of this broken bread were once scattered upon the hills and became one loaf, so gather your people together from all over the world into your Kingdom (Reign) of justice, peace and love with Jesus your Servant.

ALL: **Glory to you now and forever.**

Presider pours wine into one or several cups.

Presider: We thank you, Holy God, for the holy vine of David your servant, which you made known to us through Jesus your servant.

ALL: **Glory to you now and forever.**

The broken bread and the cup(s) are shared.

During the meal, a short passage from the gospel appointed may be read, or retold, and discussed.

John 9:1-41

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was

blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

PRAYER AT THE END

Presider: We thank you, holy God, for your holy name which you placed in our hearts, and for the knowledge and trust that you made known to us through Jesus your servant.

ALL: **Glory to you now and forever.**

Presider: You, Holy God, made everything for your name’s sake. You gave food and drink to all people to enjoy, that we may give you thanks. And to us you freely give spiritual food and drink and life eternal through Jesus, your servant.

Presider: **Glory to you now and forever.**

Presider: Remember your church. Free and protect us from evil and make us perfect in your love; make us holy and gather us in your Kingdom (Realm) prepared for us. For Yours is the power and the glory forever.

ALL: **Amen**

Presider: May your healing come, and this crisis pass away! Jesus is coming!

ALL: Amen.

A song or psalm with refrain may be sung as the table is cleared and dishes washed.

THE HYMN

*From all that dwell below the skies
Tune: Old 100th (Commonly known as the Doxology)*

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let
2 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord, and
*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise! Let the Re - deem - er's
truth e - ter - nal is thy word: thy praise shall sound from
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

Name be sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue!
shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.