

A SABBATH EVENING TABLE CELEBRATION

1. Gathering Hymn [*or another hymn of your choice*]:

Holy God, we praise Your Name, Lord of all, we bow before You.
All on earth Your scepter claim, All in Heaven above adore You.
Infinite Your vast domain, Everlasting is Your Name.

Hark the loud celestial hymn, Angels' choirs above are raising.
Cherubim and Seraphim, In unceasing chorus praising.
Fill the Heaven's with sweet accord, *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord!*

2. One participant reads:

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation (Gen. 2: 1-3; Fox).

3. Another leads in lighting the Sabbath table candles:

Blessed are you Lord God, Sovereign of the Universe, who has sanctified us with your commandments, and ordained that we kindle the Sabbath lights.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מְלֶכֶךְ
הָעוֹלָם אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו
וְצִוָּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל שַׁבָּת

***Baruch ata Adonai eloheinu melech
ha-olam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav
ve-tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Shabbat.***

4. All of the participants read:

The week has ended. The Sabbath with its peace has come. Together let us pause and allow its meaning to enlarge our lives: Be praised, O YHWH (*pronounced as Yah in Halleluyah*), our God, who has blessed us with the gift of Sabbath. May the light of these Sabbath candles reflect the love and devotion that brightens our lives. May this light inspire us toward the fulfillment of our sacred aspirations. May we be guided by your law of love, and love one another as we have been commanded. Bless us, YHWH, with Sabbath joy, with Sabbath holiness, and with Sabbath peace.

5. The Presider or Host introduces the blessing of the table companions, each one blessing at least one of their table companions.

You are invited to be creative here.

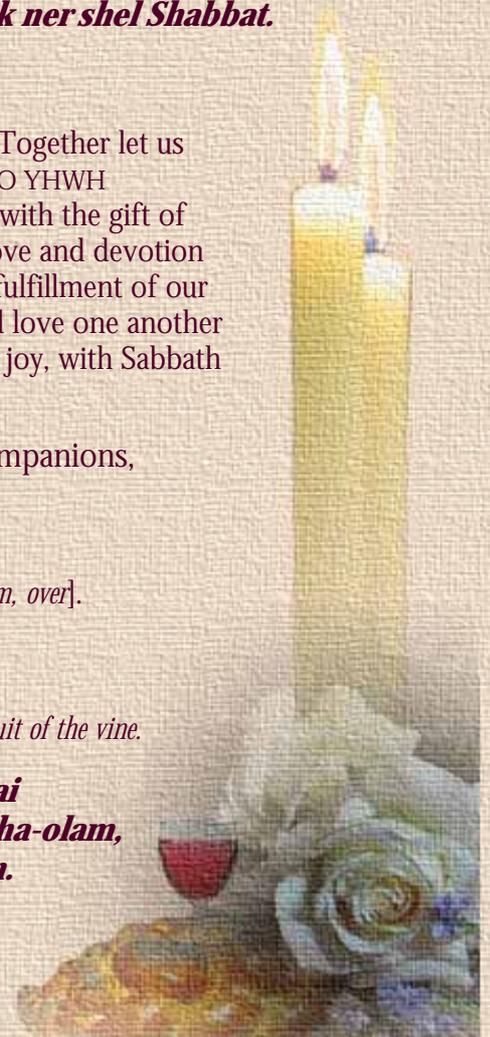
Alternatively, you may use ***Aaron's Blessing*** [*see end of program, over*].

6. A participant leads in the blessing of the wine:

Blessed are you Lord God, Sovereign of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ
אֱלֹהֵינוּ מְלֶכֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
בוֹרֵי פְרֵי הַגֶּפֶן

***Baruch ata Adonai
eloheinu melech ha-olam,
borei pri ha-gafen.***



7. Another leads in the blessing of the bread:

Blessed are you Lord God, Sovereign of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ
מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם הַמוֹצִיא
לֶחֶם מִן הָאֶרֶץ ***Baruch ata Adonai eloheinu
melech ha-olam, hamotzi
lechem min ha-aretz.***

8. All then enjoy the Sabbath dinner.

9. Between the main meal and the dessert, the Presider introduces the Sabbath Table Talk based on the *Parashat HaShavuah* and/or the Bat Kol website commentary.

10. Sabbath Table Talk concludes with some Hebrew or other songs.

11. Dessert, accompanied by more table songs.

12. Conclusion: ***The Magnificat***, to the tune for ***Amazing Grace***.
[Another song may be substituted if you wish.]

My soul proclaims the LORD my God: my spirit sings Yah's praise!
Yah looks on me and lifts me up, and gladness fills my days.
All nations now will share my joy; Yah's gifts have been outpoured.
This humble one Yah has made great. I magnify the LORD.
For those who love Yah's holy Name, Yah's mercy will not die.
Whose strong right arm puts down the proud, and lifts the lowly high.
Yah fills the hungry with good things, and sends the rich away.
The promise to Ab'ram and Sarah is filled to endless day.
Most holy and creating LORD, to You be thanks and praise,
To you be glory, power, and might, from age to endless age!

Final blessing and dismissal by the presider.

Aaron's Blessing (Num. 6:24-26)

May YHWH bless you and keep you. May the divine countenance shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May YHWH grant you peace.

יְבָרֶכֶךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶכָּהּ ***Yevarek-khah Adonai ve-yish-ma-re-khah***
יֵאָר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחַנְדֶּךָ ***Ya-er Adonai panav ele-khah vee-hu-nekhah.***
יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ ***Yissah Adonai panav ele-khah***
וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם ***ve-ya-sem lekhah shalom.***

Shabbat Shalom!

