**Lord’s Day Ceremony**

Opening Song (optional)

Reading (generally the gospel from the Sunday is used)

Leader: God our Father, in honour of Jesus your Son, we prepare to light this candle as we welcome the Lord’s day.

Jesus, you are the light of the world.

Response: Come bring your light into our hearts.

Leader: The light reminds us of the Lord’s presence with us

Response: Jesus, we embrace you

Leader: God’s word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path

Response: Jesus, teach us to live in your ways

Leader: Jesus, you call us to let our light shine, so that others will see the good that we do and will praise our Father in heaven.

Response: Jesus, help us proclaim your love

Leader: In unity with all our brothers and sisters, and with all the angels and saints, we enkindle this light.

Assistant: (light the candle and raise hands over light)

Father, you created light on the first day.

Jesus, you are the light of the world.

Holy Spirit, you give light to our hearts.

We praise you, triune God, you have taught us to enkindle the light for the Lord’s day.

Song – (e.g. ‘This little light of mine’, ‘The light of Christ’)

Leader: Let’s welcome the day of the Lord in joy and peace.

 (pour wine into cup, and hold the cup)

 Lord, because you are so good to us, we have this wine, symbol of joy. We thank you for the blessings of this past week: for life, health and strength; for home, love and friendship; for the way you teach us in good and bad times. We thank you for this day of rest, and we thank you for Jesus, who is our true rest.

Response: Amen

Leader: (raise cup) Praise be to you, Lord, you have created the fruit of the vine. (the cup is now passed)

 (hold bread) Lord, because you are so good to us, we have this bread, a sign of your daily care and love. This bread is made from many grains. As we share this bread, may we also share our lives together.

We praise you Lord, you make the earth grow food for all.

(the bread is shared. Each may say a short prayer of thanksgiving. Cheese and olives are also passed around at this time if desired).

Leader: This is the Lord’s day. Let us be glad and rejoice in it.

Response: Thanks be to God

Song

Parents : Bless your children: “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.”