**Thursday Morning Prayer**

**The Preparation**

Presider O Lord, open our lips

**All And our mouth shall proclaim your praise**

Presider Pour your love into our hearts, O God

**All Through the Holy Spirit you have given to us**

**Glory to God, source of all being,**

**Eternal word and Holy Spirit:**

**As it was in the beginning, is now,**

**And shall be forever. Amen.**

**The Opening Prayer**

Presider The night has passed and the day lies open before us;

Let us pray with one heart and mind

*Silence is kept*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,

So may the light of your presence O God,

Set our hearts on fire with love for you

Now and forever. Amen

**The Word of God**

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1 O Lord, I am not proud; \*  
I have no haughty looks.  
  
2 I do not occupy myself with great matters, \*  
or with things that are too hard for me.  
  
3 But I still my soul and make it quiet,  
like a child upon its mother's breast; \*  
my soul is quieted within me.  
  
4 O Israel, wait upon the Lord, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.

**The Responsory**

Presider Fear not, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

**All: Fear not, for I have redeemed you.**

**I have called you by name; you are mine.**

Presider When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

When you walk through the darkest valley, I will be with you.

**All: Fear not, for I have redeemed you.**

**I have called you by name; you are mine.**

Presider You are precious in my sight and I love you.

Do not fear, for I am with you.

**All: Fear not, for I have redeemed you.**

**I have called you by name; you are mine.**

## **Reading Of The Gospel**

Gospel Reader:The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Gospel Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’

Gospel Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gospel Canticle

Refrain: **God set us free to worship you without fear**

**Holy and righteous all the days of our lives**

**Benedictus**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old

that he would save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship him without fear,

holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

to give his people knowledge of salvation

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now,**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Refrain: **God set us free to worship you without fear**

**Holy and righteous all the days of our lives**

***The Litany***

Presider: In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying,

All: “**Lord, have mercy**.”

For peace from on high and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy**.

For our bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy**.

For Elizabeth our Queen, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy**.

For this city (town, village, etc.), for every city and community, and for those who live in them in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For good weather, and for abundant harvests for all to share, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy**.

For those who travel by land, water, or air, for the sick and the suffering for prisoners and captives, and for their safety, health, and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy**.

We also think of those people in our lives who need a special prayer this day and we name them either aloud or in the silence of our hearts… let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offences, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We also have our individual concerns that weigh on our hearts, minds and souls and we lift those concerns to you now… let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died and are now with you in heaven we remember them and name them either aloud or in the silence of our hearts… let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering Saint John all the saints, we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

**To you, O Lord.**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to you, and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together you will hear their requests. Fulfil now our desires and petitions, as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come eternal life; for you, Father, are good and loving, and we glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Collect**

Presider O God, the author of peace

And lover of concord, whom to know is eternal life,

Whose service is perfect freedom:

Defend us your servants

Form all assaults of our enemies

That we, trusting in your defense,

May not fear the power of any adversaries;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider As Our Saviour Christ taught us we are bold to say:

**All Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

**Closing Responses**

The Blessing

**All The Lord bless us and preserve us from all evil,**

**And keep us in eternal life. Amen.**

Presider Let us bless the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**