

The Preparation

Leader O Lord, open our lips
All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Leader Your light springs up for the righteous
All and all the peoples have seen your glory.

Leader Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
king of the nations,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.
As the Sun of Righteousness dawns in our hearts
anoint our lips with the seal of your Spirit
that we may witness to your gospel
and sing your praise in all the earth.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All Blessed be God for ever.

This opening prayer may be said

Leader 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 for ever.

All Amen.

The Word of God
Psalmody

*The appointed psalm(s) is said.
Each psalm or group of psalms may end with*

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning is now
 and shall be for ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

*An appointed Reading from the Scriptures is read. After a period of silent
reflection the following is said.*

 Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
All Thanks be to God

Gospel Canticle

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said

All This is the Christ, the Chosen of God,
 the one who will bring healing to the nations.

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
 who has come to his people and set them free.

2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
 born of the house of his servant David.

3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
 to save us from our enemies,
 from the hands of all that hate us,

4 To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
 and to remember his holy covenant.

5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

- 6 Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

All This is the Christ, the Chosen of God,
the one who will bring healing to the nations.

The Prayers

Intercessions are offered

This response may be used

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer

Silence may be kept.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Leader Believing the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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.
 Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and for ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

 May Christ, who sends us to the nations,
 give us the power of his Spirit.
All Amen.

 Let us bless the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.