

## The Preparation

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

Leader      Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,  
*All*            according to your judgement give us life.

Leader      Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy,  
                to you be praise and glory for ever.  
                In the darkness of our sin,  
                your light breaks forth like the dawn  
                and your healing springs up for deliverance.  
                As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help,  
                sustain us with your bountiful Spirit  
                and open our lips to sing your praise.  
                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*            Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
                  for they shall be satisfied.

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* Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.

## 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      Trusting in the compassion 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

*All*            May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.  
Amen.

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