

The Preparation

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

Leader You laid the foundation of the earth
All and the heavens are the work of your hands. Alleluia.

Leader Blessed are you, sovereign God,
creator of heaven and earth,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As your living Word, eternal in heaven,
assumed the frailty of our mortal flesh,
may the light of your love be born in us
to fill our hearts with joy as we sing:
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 Cantic

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said

All The Word of God, begotten of the Father before time began,
 humbled himself for us and was incarnate
 from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary. Alleluia.

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 The Word of God, begotten of the Father before time began,
humbled himself for us and was incarnate
from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary. Alleluia.

The Prayers

Intercessions are offered

This response may be used

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

Silence may be kept.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Leader Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
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, who has called us out of darkness
into his marvellous light,
bless us and fill us with peace.
Amen.

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

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