

Morning Prayer in the Christmas Season

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

You laid the foundation of the earth

All and the heavens are the work of your hands.

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.

A Song of the Bride

- 1 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, ◆
my soul shall exult in my God;
- 2 Who has clothed me with the garments of salvation, ◆
and has covered me with the cloak of integrity,
- 3 As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, ◆
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- 4 For as the earth puts forth her blossom, ◆
and as seeds in the garden spring up,
- 5 So shall God make righteousness and praise ◆
blossom before all the nations.
- 6 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, ◆
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

- 7 Until her deliverance shines out like the dawn, ♦
and her salvation as a burning torch.
- 8 The nations shall see your deliverance, ♦
and all rulers shall see your glory;
- 9 Then you shall be called by a new name ♦
which the mouth of God will give.
- 10 You shall be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, ♦
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Isaiah 61.10,11; 62.1-3

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.

This opening prayer may be said

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

The appointed psalmody 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.

If there are two Scripture readings, the first may be read here

Canticle

**All To us a child is born,
to us a son is given.**

- 1 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; ♦
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
upon them the light has dawned.
- 2 You have increased their joy and given them great gladness; ♦
they rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest.
- 3 For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them; ♦
the collar that lay heavy on their shoulders.
- 4 For to us a child is born and to us a son is given, ♦
and the government will be upon his shoulder.
- 5 And his name will be called: Wonderful Counsellor;
the Mighty God; ♦
the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace.
- 6 Of the increase of his government and of peace ♦
there will be no end,
- 7 Upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, ♦
to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness.
- 8 From this time forth and for evermore; ♦
the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9.2,3b,4a,6,7

**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 To us a child is born,
to us a son is given.**

Scripture Reading

A suitable song or chant, or a responsory in this or another form, may follow

The Word of life which was from the beginning

All we proclaim to you.

The darkness is passing away
and the true light is already shining;

All the Word of life which was from the beginning.

That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,
and touched with our hands,

All we proclaim to you.

For our fellowship is with the Father,
and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.**

from 1 John 1

Gospel Canticle: The Benedictus

Refrain:

**All To us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
and all the heavenly hosts now sing,
Glory to God in the highest.**

- 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 **To us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
and all the heavenly hosts now sing,
Glory to God in the highest.**

Prayers

Intercessions are offered

¶ *for the day and its tasks*

¶ *for the world and its needs*

¶ *for the Church and her life*

The Collect of the day

or the following is said

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All Our Father in heaven ...

The Conclusion

May God, who has called us out of darkness
into his marvellous light,
bless us and fill us with peace.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.