

Morning Prayer at Christmas

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

You laid the foundation of the earth
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.
Today your living Word, eternal in the heavens,
assumes the frailty of our mortal flesh
to raise our human nature to your right hand on high.
As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us,
let the light of your love be born in us today
and your praises ever be on our lips.
Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
Blessed be God for ever.

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.
Amen.

The Word of God

Psalm 117

¹ Praise the LORD, all you nations;
extol him, all you peoples.

² For great is his love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Praise the LORD.
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.

A Song of the Messiah is said

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

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.

The Reading

The Talk

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is said

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

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.

Prayers

Intercessions are offered

The Collect of the day or the following Collect 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.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

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

**Our Father,
which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done ;
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil;
for thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Conclusion

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

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.