

# *Morning Worship*

## *Christmas Season*



### **Preparation**

O God, make speed to save us.

**All** O Lord, make haste to help us.

You laid the foundation of the earth

**All** and the heavens are the work of your hands.

### **Praise**

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 hymn*

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*

*A psalm is said.*

Psalm 119: 161-168

161 Princes have persecuted me without a cause, ◆  
but my heart stands in awe of your word.

**162 I am as glad of your word ◆  
as one who finds great spoils.**

163 As for lies, I hate and abhor them, ◆  
but your law do I love.

**164 Seven times a day do I praise you, ◆  
because of your righteous judgements.**

165 Great peace have they who love your law; ◆  
nothing shall make them stumble.

**166 Lord, I have looked for your salvation ◆  
and I have fulfilled your commandments.**

167 My soul has kept your testimonies ◆  
and greatly have I loved them.

**168 I have kept your commandments and testimonies, ◆  
for all my ways are before you.**

*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*

*One or more readings appointed for the day are read.*

*This responsory 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*

**Reflection:** *a short homily is offered*

*Gospel Canticle*

*The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is said,*

**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.**

*A hymn may be sung.*

## ***Affirmation of Faith –The Nicene Creed***

Let us declare our faith in God the Holy Trinity.

**All** **We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,**

and fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

*cf Ephesians 3*

## Prayers

*Intercessions are offered*

*Silence may be kept.*

*The Collect for the First Sunday of Christmas*

God in Trinity,  
eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life  
through the birth of Emmanuel,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

*A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus*

Gracious God,  
we pray for all your people.  
For those who are anxious,  
For those whose lives are still restricted,  
and for those who are joyful and growing in confidence.  
We pray for those who feel vulnerable,  
those faced with difficult decisions.  
For those who are ready to take next steps,  
and for those who are not.  
We pray for those who are isolating,  
and for those returning after a period of isolation.  
As we journey together may we hold one another  
in mutual respect and care,  
modelling your grace and love in our relationships and communities.

**All** Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All** Our Father, who art in heaven ...

*A hymn*

## The Conclusion

*Prayer of Blessing*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all, evermore.

**All** Amen.

*The Grace*

**All** 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