

**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 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 psalm of the day may be read to conclude with
**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.**

Canticle (A Song of the Messiah)
Isaiah 9.2,3b,4a,6,7

**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.

**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.**

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

Scripture may be read

Responsory
(from 1 John 1)

The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.
The darkness is passing away
and the true light is already shining;
the Word of life which was from the beginning.
That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,
and touched with our hands,
we proclaim to you.
For our fellowship is with the Father,
and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
**The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.**

Or

The Benedictus (The Song of Zachariah)
Luke 1.68-79

**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.

**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.**

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

Intercessions are offered

- . for the day and its tasks
- . for the world and its needs
- . for the Church and her life

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**

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

**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 forever. Amen.**

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

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.

One or more of the following is said

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.
Blessed be God for ever.

Isaiah 61.10,11; 62.1-3

- 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.