

Gospel Canticle

Refrain

**Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,
and see the glory that is coming from God.**

From 17 December until Christmas Eve:

**Like the sun in the morning sky,
the Saviour of the world will dawn;
like rain upon the meadows, the Christ will come down upon us.**

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

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

The Conclusion

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**

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

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Morning Prayer

Preparation

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

Reveal among us the light of your presence
that we may behold your power and glory.

Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be praise and glory for ever.
In your tender compassion the dawn from on high is breaking upon us
to dispel the lingering shadows of night. As we look for your coming among
us this day, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our
hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, ♦
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For he has founded it upon the seas ♦
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, ♦
or who can rise up in his holy place?'
- 4 'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, ♦
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,
nor sworn an oath to a lie;
- 5 'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, ♦
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'
- 6 Such is the company of those who seek him, ♦
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 'Who is the King of glory?' 'The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord who is mighty in battle.'

9 Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors; ♦
and the King of glory shall come in.

10 'Who is this King of glory?' ♦
'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

Psalm 24

**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. **Amen.**

The Word of God

Psalmody: The appointed psalmody is said, ending

**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.**

First reading

Canticle

Lift up your voice with strength, O herald of good tidings.

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice, ♦
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.

2 They shall see the glory of the Lord, ♦
the majesty of our God.

3 Strengthen the weary hands, ♦
and make firm the feeble knees.

4 Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not,

your God is coming with judgement, ♦
coming with judgement to save you.'

5 Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, ♦
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

6 Then shall the lame leap like a hart, ♦
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

7 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, ♦
and streams in the desert;

8 The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, ♦
with everlasting joy upon their heads.

9 Joy and gladness shall be theirs, ♦
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35.1, 2b-4a, 4c-6, 10

**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.**

Lift up your voice with strength, O herald of good tidings.

Second reading

Responsory

Now it is time to awake out of sleep,
for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.
Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed,

All **for the night is far spent.**

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,

All **for the day is at hand.**

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ
and make no provision for the flesh,

All **for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.**

from Romans 13