***MORNING PRAYER:***

**Preparation**

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

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of all, to you be glory and praise for ever.  
You founded the earth in the beginning and the heavens are the work of your hands.  
In the fullness of time you made us in your image, and in these last days you have spoken to us in your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us, let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, your Spirit ever renew our lives and your praises ever be on our lips. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
***All: Blessed be God for ever.***

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.***

***Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name.***

***Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits;***

***Who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;***

***Who redeems your life from the Pit and crowns you with faithful love and compassion;***

***Who satisfies you with good things, so that your youth is renewed like an eagle’s.***

***The Lord executes righteousness and judgement for all who are oppressed.***

***He made his ways known to Moses and his works to the children of Israel.***

***The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom has dominion over all.***

***Bless the Lord, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding and hearken to the voice of his word.***

***Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, you ministers of his who do his will.***

***Bless the Lord, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul.***

***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.***

**The Word of God (First scripture reading)**

***Gospel Canticle. The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)***

**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)***

***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.***

**Second Reading (The Gospel Reading)**

**Homily (A 2-minute words of exultation or encouragement)**

**Prayers of *Intercessions are offered***

Lord, in your mercy ***All: hear our prayer***

***The Collect of the day may be said ……………………………… All: Amen.***

***The Lord’s Prayer is said.*** Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

***All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on 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**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life.  
***All: Amen.***

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