

## **St Simon and St Jude, Earl Shilton and St Mary's, Elmesthorpe**

### **PRAYERS TO START THE DAY**

#### **Preparation**

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

#### ***This or another seasonal prayer of thanksgiving:***

Blessed are you, creator of all,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
As your dawn renews the face of the earth  
bringing light and life to all creation,  
may we rejoice in this day you have made;  
as we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,  
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.**

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 for the day**

#### ***Each Psalm ends 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.**

#### **Bible Reading**

#### **Reflection**

#### **The Song of Zechariah**

<sup>1</sup>Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.

<sup>2</sup>He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.

<sup>3</sup>Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,

<sup>4</sup>To show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.

<sup>5</sup>This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

<sup>6</sup>Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

<sup>7</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

<sup>8</sup>To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

<sup>9</sup>In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

<sup>10</sup>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** – a time of prayer for the day and its tasks, the world and its need and the church and its life.

### **Special Prayer for the day**

**The Lord's Prayer:**  
**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.**  
**Lead us not into temptation**  
**but deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power,**  
**and the glory are yours,**  
**now and for ever.**  
**Amen**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life.

**Amen**

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