

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

According to your judgement give us life.

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy,
to you be praise and glory for ever.

In the darkness of our sin,
your light breaks forth like the dawn
and your healing springs up for deliverance.
As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help,
sustain us with your bountiful Spirit
and open our lips to sing your 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 54

Behold, God is my helper.

1 Save me, O God, by your name; *
vindicate me by your might.

2 Hear my prayer, O God; *

listen to the words of my mouth.

3 Arrogant foes are attacking me; *

**ruthless people are trying to kill me—
people without regard for God.**

4 Surely God is my help; *

the Lord is the one who sustains me.

5 Let evil recoil on those who slander me; *

in your faithfulness destroy them.

6 I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you; *

I will praise your name, Lord, for it is good.

7 You have delivered me from all my troubles, *

and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes.

Behold God is my helper.

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.

Romans 8: 28- end

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

More Than Conquerors

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God

who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written:

*“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
O my God, in you I trust.
You are the God of my salvation,
To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
In you I hope all the day long.
O my God, in you I trust.
Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
O my God, in you I trust.

A brief homily will follow.

The Benedictus (Please stand)
***Blessed are those who are persecuted for the cause of right,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

**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]

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.

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for the cause of right,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Prayers of intercession, followed by the Collect and The Lord's Prayer

Collect

Merciful Lord

**You know our struggle to serve you;
When sin spoils our lives
And overshadows our hearts,
Come to our aid**

**And turn us back to you again
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Trusting in the compassion of God,
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.
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 Conclusion

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.