



Mid-Day  
Prayer  
in the  
seasons  
of

Christmas  
and  
Epiphany

The Church  
of the  
Redeemer

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*The Leader will ask someone to be the voice for "All" during the service.  
Everyone else will be muted, but all are encouraged to speak the words as well.*

*The service begins with a time of silence.*

## **The Greeting**

One: Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**All: A light no darkness can extinguish.**

One: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel.

**All: May all the earth be filled with God's glory.**

## **The Responsories**

One: Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God, you were before time began.

**All: You came into the world to save us.**

One: Blessed are you, Sun of righteousness; you shine with the Father's love.

**All: You illumine the whole universe.**

One: Blessed are you, Son of Mary; born a child, you shared our humanity.

**All: You came among us to be one of us, to be one with us.**

One: Blessed are you, Son of David; you received gifts from the Magi.

**All: Your teach us to give of ourselves that we might be gifts to the world.**

One: Blessed are you, Son of Man; you were baptized by John in the Jordan.

**All: You saved us from ourselves.**

One: Blessed are you, heavenly king; you taught, you healed, you comforted.

**All: You proclaimed God's reign on earth, as it is in heaven.**

One: With all the voices of heaven we celebrate the coming of our Saviour.

**All: Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**

One: With all the creatures on earth we sing and dance at Christ's birth.

**All: Praise and honour and glory to you, O Lord most high.**

One: Glory to God,

**All: Source of all being,**

**eternal Word**

**and Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

# The Canticles

## Monday: Glory to God

All:      Glory to God in the highest,  
          and peace to God's people on earth.  
          Lord God, heavenly king,  
          almighty God and Father,  
          we worship you, we give you thanks,  
          we praise you for your glory.  
          Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
          Lord God, Lamb of God,  
          you take away the sin of the world:  
          have mercy on us;  
          you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
          receive our prayer.  
          For you alone are the Holy One,  
          you alone are the Lord,  
          you alone are the Most High,  
          Jesus Christ,  
          with the Holy Spirit,  
          in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## Tuesday: Song of the First-Born

*Colossians 1.15–20*

All:      Christ is the image of the unseen God, \*  
          the first-born of all creation,  
          for in him were all things made, \*  
          in heaven and on earth.  
  
          Through him and for him were all things made,  
          before all he exists, holds all things in one. \*  
          The Church is his body, and he is its head.  
  
          He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; \*  
          in all things he alone is supreme.  
          God made all his fullness to dwell in him, \*  
          to reconcile through him all creation to himself,  
          everything on earth and everything in heaven, \*  
          all gathered into peace by his death on the cross.

## Wednesday: God's Plan of Salvation

*Ephesians 1.3-7*

All: Blessed be the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ, \*  
who has blessed us in Christ  
with all the spiritual blessings of heaven.

God chose us in Christ  
before the world was made \*  
to be holy and blameless,  
and to live by his love in his presence.

God planned through Jesus Christ \*  
to bring us to himself as his children,  
that we might praise the glory of his grace, \*  
his free gift to us in the Beloved.

In Christ we gain redemption;  
through his blood our sins are forgiven. \*  
How rich is the grace of God!

## Thursday: The Song of Mary

*Luke 1.46-55*

All: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; \*  
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

## Friday: The Song of Zechariah

Luke 1.68-79

All: All: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he 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 he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he 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.

You, my 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 their sins.

## Saturday: Song of Thanksgiving

Isaiah 12.2-6

All: Surely, it is God who saves me; \*  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defence, \*  
and he will be my Saviour.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, \*

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;  
make his deeds known among the peoples; \*  
see that they remember that his name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

## The Psalm

*The psalm for the day is found in the reading list on the last page.  
It is prayed by whole verse, beginning with the leader.*

## The Reading

*After the reading, we pause for one minute of silence  
to reflect on the scripture and ponder its meaning.*

## Statement of Faith

### Monday

One: We believe in God  
**All: who is older than eternity  
and younger than our next breath;  
who is beyond describing  
yet knows us all by name;  
who inspires faith  
yet cannot be contained by religion.**

One: We believe in Jesus Christ,  
**All: flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone;  
he came in the body  
to give worth to every human life.  
He touched the untouchable  
loved the unlovable  
and endured slander, persecution and death.**

One: We believe that God's Kingdom comes on earth  
through Christ's suffering love.  
**All: He rose from the grave as living proof  
that what is laid down in faith  
will be raised in glory.  
He ascended to heaven  
to be present in all times to all people.**

One: We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
**All: who leads us into truth and freedom,  
who gives good gifts to all God's children,  
who works through prayer and politics,  
through justice, care of creation  
and the healing of the nations.**

One: We celebrate the potential God has given:  
All: the life in our bodies,  
the yearning in our souls,  
the promise of good things in store  
for those who love and serve their maker. Amen.

## Tuesday

One: We believe  
All: that God is present in the darkness before dawn;  
in the waiting and uncertainty  
where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms,  
and the sun rises over barbed wire.

We believe in a with-us God  
who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.  
We affirm a faith that takes us beyond a safe place:  
into action, into vulnerability and onto the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for change  
and put ourselves on the line;  
to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation;  
to stand with those on the edge;  
to choose life and be used by the Spirit  
for God's new community of hope. Amen.

## Wednesday

One: I believe in God,  
All: the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**All:** I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Thursday

**One:** We believe

**All:** in the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob,  
who journeys with us through life,  
and leads us to new beginnings.

We believe in the God of Moses,  
who frees us from oppression and guides us  
through desert, wilderness, and sin to the Promised Land.

We believe in the God of the prophets,  
who asks for justice in our land,  
and cares for the poor.

We believe in Jesus Christ,  
who brought the Gospel to us,  
who celebrated God's unconditional love for everyone.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who forms and molds us into God's image,  
who sends us out to serve God and people,  
who leads us to everlasting life. Amen.

## Friday

**One:** We believe in God above us,

**All:** Maker and Sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.

We believe in God beside us,  
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.

A man of compassion, he died forsaken;  
he descended into the earth to the place of death.



All: On the third day he rose from the tomb;  
he ascended into heaven to be everywhere present;  
and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the church,  
spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen.

## Saturday

One: We believe in God

All: in whom is power and compassion.

We believe in the Creator who gave birth to the universe,  
set solar systems dancing in space,  
shaped molecules and mountains,  
and conceived beauty beyond our imagining.

God's power topples tyrants,  
and brings down walls of separation;  
God's love embodies the tenderness of a mother and father,  
encouraging and caring for each of us.

We believe in Jesus, born in obscurity in an occupied land;  
a human being, vulnerable to hunger thirst, persecution and grief.  
He understood the power of love  
and confronted the powers of evil,  
spoke the truth with courage and clarity,  
forgave his enemies and changed lives.  
In his living, dying and rising again  
he showed love strong enough to save the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit  
who sustains, comforts and empowers us,  
opens the scriptures, opens our minds,  
and illuminates earth's darkness. Amen.

# Confession

## Monday

One: O Holy One,  
we call to you and name you as eternal,  
ever-present, and boundless in love.  
Yet there are times, O God,  
when we fail to recognize you in the moment,  
because we are so preoccupied with our daily lives.  
Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our hearts,  
and we hide our true feelings.  
Sometimes fear makes us small,  
and we miss the chance to speak from our strength.  
Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness,  
and we degrade our own wisdom.

**All: Holy God, in the daily round from sunrise to sunset,  
remind us again of your holy presence hovering near us and in us.  
Free us from shame and self-doubt.  
Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities  
to live honestly, to act courageously,  
and to speak from our convictions.  
In your name we pray. Amen.**

## Tuesday

One: Dear God, we thank you for all that is good,  
for our creation and our humanity,  
for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth,  
for the gifts of life and of one another,  
for your love which is unbounded and eternal.

**All: Merciful God,  
we have not loved you with our whole heart,  
nor our neighbours as ourselves.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
forgive what we have been,  
accept us as we are,  
and guide what we shall be.**

One: O God of mercy, you forgive our past sin,  
you strengthen us in your gift of eternal life, you shape us for glory.  
O God of mercy, we thank you. Amen.

## Wednesday

One: Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

**All: Creator God, in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgment;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

One: The Lord enrich you with grace,  
and nourish you with many blessings;  
the Lord defend you in trouble  
and keep you from all evil;  
the Lord accept your prayers,  
and absolve you from your offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

## Thursday

One: We have wounded your love.

**All: O God, heal us.**

One: We stumble in the darkness.

**All: Light of the world, transfigure us.**

One: We forget that we are your home.

**All: Spirit of God, dwell in us.**

One: Eternal Spirit.

**All: living God,  
in whom we live and move and have our being,  
all that we are, have been, and shall be  
is known to you.  
In the very secret of our hearts  
you know all that rises to trouble us.  
Living flame, burn into us.  
Cleansing wind, blow through us.  
Fountain of water, well up within us;  
that we may love and praise  
in deed and in truth. Amen.**

## Friday

One: God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;  
he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table.  
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

**All: Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

One: Almighty God have mercy upon us,  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and keep us in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Saturday

One: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,  
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.  
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,  
what our hearts can no longer bear,  
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

**All: Set us free from a past that we cannot change;  
open to us a future in which we can be changed;  
and grant us grace to grow more and more  
in your likeness and image,  
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.**

## The Prayers

*All will be unmuted during the prayers.*

One: God of glory, your Son has brought the light of life  
to those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.  
Grant to your Church throughout the world  
boldness to share the good news with all people.  
We pray for the church, especially our parish families:

*Please share your prayers, spoken aloud or offered in silence.*

God, our guide

**All: lead us to light and life.**

One: God of the heavens,  
a star blazed forth to show the way to your incarnate Son.  
Reveal the path of righteousness to all in authority,  
that they may be gifts, relieving the burdens of those they serve.  
We pray for the world:

*Please share your prayers, spoken aloud or offered in silence.*

God, our guide

**All: lead us to light and life.**

One: God of the wilderness,  
you brought the magi home by another road.  
Lead us in our relationship with all that you have made.  
Inspire us to seek different paths in our journey with creation,  
that we may care for your world the way you care for us.  
We pray for all life that dwells beneath heaven's gaze:

*Please share your prayers, spoken aloud or offered in silence.*

God, our guide

**All: lead us to light and life.**

One: God of endless compassion,  
in your never-failing mercy receive the pleas of all who are in need.  
Remember the imprisoned, the persecuted, the homeless, the home-  
bound, the lonely and all who are suffering at this moment.  
Shine on them, Lord, with the solace of your Word,  
and relieve them in their distress.  
We pray for those who seek comfort:

*Please share your prayers, spoken aloud or offered in silence.*

God, our guide

**All: lead us to light and life.**

One: Giver of life everlasting,  
we pray for those who are dying,  
and those whom you have welcomed home.  
May your glory continue to shine through the lives  
of those we remember with affection:

*Please share your prayers, spoken aloud or offered in silence.*

One: Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.

**All: And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

One: May they rest in peace and rise in glory.  
Console those who are overshadowed by grief  
and, in the fullness of time,  
bring us all to share in the light of life everlasting with you.  
God, our guide

**All: lead us to light and life.**

One: O God, in the midst of this day's wanderings  
we take a moment  
to remember how grateful we are  
for the gifts that you lay at our feet.  
Humbled by the depth of your love, we offer our thanks and praise:

*Please share your prayers, spoken aloud or offered in silence.*

God, our guide

**All: lead us to light and life.**

One: Gracious God,  
by a star you led the magi to behold your incarnate Son.  
May your light lead us to discover  
your presence in our lives and in our world.  
Accept these prayers  
for the sake of the child in the manger,  
your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end.

**All: Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

One: Gathering all our cares into one, let us pray as our Saviour 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.**

## **Closing Prayer**

One: Almighty God,  
you have triumphed over the powers of darkness  
and in Jesus Christ have prepared a place for us in the new Jerusalem.  
May we, together with all your saints, give thanks for his resurrection,  
and praise him in that eternal city of which he is the light.

**All: Amen.**

## **Blessing**

One: May the babe of Bethlehem grant you peace.  
May the child of Nazareth bring you joy.  
May the man of Galilee give you strength.  
May the Christ of Calvary lend you courage.  
May the risen Jesus fill you with hope.  
May the ascended Lord offer you a foretaste of God's glory.  
And may the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.

**All: Amen.**

## **Sending**

One: Let us go forth to be Christ's light to the world. Alleluia!

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

