

## THE CONCLUSION

*The service ends with one of the following:*

*The Blessing*

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.**

*(or)*

*The Grace*

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

*(or)*

*The Peace*

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

*These words may be added:*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace, God's seal on our prayers.

## A SERVICE OF THE WORD

## THE PREPARATION

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**And also with you**

*The service is introduced with words of welcome, followed by:*

Jesus says, 'Repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Lord God,  
we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
we are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore us to the joy of your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse us from our sins,  
and restore us in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Blessed is the Lord,  
**For he has heard the voice of our prayer;**

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy  
**And in our song will we praise our God.**

**born of the Virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

## THE PRAYERS

*Intercessions are offered followed by:*

## THE COLLECT

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**Our Father, who are in heaven,  
hallowed by 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 Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.**

**He has mercy on those who fear him, \*  
from generation to generation.**

**He has shown strength with his arm \*  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,**

**Casting down the mighty from their thrones \*  
and lifting up the lowly.**

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

**He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, \*  
to remember his promise of mercy,**

**The promise made to our ancestors, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**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.**

*A sermon is preached. This may include less formal exposition, the  
use of drama, interviews, discussion, audio-visuals and the insertion  
of hymns between parts of the sermon.*

## **THE CREED**

*The Apostles' Creed or an authorized Affirmation of Faith is said.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

*A prayer of thanksgiving may be said*

*(Morning Service)*

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
creator and redeemer of all:  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world  
and in your great love fashioned us in your image.  
Now, through the deep waters of death,  
you have brought your people to new birth  
by raising your Son to life in triumph.  
May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts  
as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*(or)*

*(Evening Service)*

Blessed are you, sovereign God,  
our light and our salvation;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
You led your people to freedom  
by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.  
May we who walk in the light of your presence  
acclaim your Christ, rising victorious,  
as he banishes all darkness from our hearts and minds.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*An opening canticle or hymn may be sung.*

*The opening prayer may be said*

*(Morning Service)*

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.**

*(or)*

*(Evening Service)*

The day is almost over, and the evening has come:  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
so may your Spirit come down upon us  
to set us free to sing your praise  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

THE READING(S)

THE PSALM *is said or sung either before the readings or between them.*

### **The Gospel Canticle**

*(Morning Service) 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 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.**

**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.**

*(or)*

*(Evening Service) The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)*

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

**From this day all generations will call me blessed; \***