**Thursday**

**The Preparation**

Presider O Lord, open our lips

**All And our mouth shall proclaim your praise**

Presider Pour your love into our hearts, O God

**All Through the Holy Spirit you have given to us**

 **Glory to God, source of all being,**

 **Eternal word and Holy Spirit:**

 **As it was in the beginning, is now,**

 **And shall be forever. Amen.**

 **Alleluia!**

**The Opening Prayer**

Presider The night has passed and the day lies open before us;

 Let us pray with one heart and mind

*Silence is kept*

 A 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 forever. Amen

**The Word of God**

**105**

**Part I**
1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; \*
make known his deeds among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, \*
and speak of all his marvelous works.

3 Glory in his holy Name; \*
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

4 Search for the Lord and his strength; \*
continually seek his face.

5 Remember the marvels he has done, \*
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, \*
O children of Jacob his chosen.

7 He is the Lord our God; \*
his judgments prevail in all the world.

8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, \*
the promise he made for a thousand generations:

9 The covenant he made with Abraham, \*
the oath that he swore to Isaac,

10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, \*
an everlasting covenant for Israel,

11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan \*
to be your allotted inheritance."

12 When they were few in number, \*
of little account, and sojourners in the land,

13 Wandering from nation to nation \*
and from one kingdom to another,

14 He let no one oppress them \*
and rebuked kings for their sake,

15 Saying, "Do not touch my anointed \*
and do my prophets no harm."

16 Then he called for a famine in the land \*
and destroyed the supply of bread.

17 He sent a man before them, \*
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

18 They bruised his feet in fetters; \*
his neck they put in an iron collar.

19 Until his prediction came to pass, \*
the word of the Lord tested him.

20 The king sent and released him; \*
the ruler of the peoples set him free.

21 He set him as a master over his household, \*
as a ruler over all his possessions,

22 To instruct his princes according to his will \*
and to teach his elders wisdom.

## The Gospel

## Matthew 9:1-8

And after getting into a boat he crossed the water and came to his own town.

And just then some people were carrying a paralysed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.’ Then some of the scribes said to themselves, ‘This man is blaspheming.’ But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, ‘Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, “Your sins are forgiven”, or to say, “Stand up and walk”? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—he then said to the paralytic—‘Stand up, take your bed and go to your home.’ And he stood up and went to his home. When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

*Take a silent moment of reflection upon and / or brief comments regarding the Gospel*

Gospel Canticle

Refrain: **God set us free to worship you without fear**

 **Holy and righteous all the days of our lives**

**Benedictus**

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 savior,

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.

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 God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now,**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Refrain: **God set us free to worship you without fear**

 **Holy and righteous all the days of our lives**

**The Litany**

Presider From the rising of the sun to its setting

 That the people of God in all the world

 May worship in Spirit and in truth, let us pray with one voice.

**All God of love, hear our prayer**

Presider That the church may discover again that unity which is your gift,

 Let us pray with one voice.

**All God of love, hear our prayer**

Presider That the nations of the earth,

May seek after the ways that make for peace, let us pray with one voice

**All God of love, hear our prayer**

Presider That the whole creation, groaning in travail, may be set free to enjoy the

 Glorious liberty of the children of God, let us pray with one voice.

**All God of love, hear our prayer**

Presider (Any individual prayers…)

**All God of love, hear our prayer**

Presider That all who with Christ have entered the shadow of death,

 May find the fulfillment of life and peace, let us pray with one voice.

**All God of love, hear our prayer**

Presider With all the saints in light,

 Let us offer eternal praise to God made manifest.

**The Collect**

Presider O God, the author of peace

 And lover of concord, whom to know is eternal life,

 Whose service is perfect freedom:

 Defend us your servants

Formal assaults of our enemies

That we, trusting in your defense,

May not fear the power of any adversaries;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presider As Our Saviour Christ taught us we are bold to say:

**All 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.**

**Closing Responses**

The Blessing

**All The Lord bless us and preserve us from all evil,**

 **And keep us in eternal life. Amen.**

Presider Let us bless the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**