**Tuesday**

**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**

**124**    
  
1 If the Lord had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;  
  
2 If the Lord had not been on our side, \*  
when enemies rose up against us;  
  
3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;  
  
4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
and the torrent gone over us;  
  
5 Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.  
  
6 Blessed be the Lord! \*  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.  
  
7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.  
  
8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

**Gospel**

## Matthew 2:13-18

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:  
‘A voice was heard in Ramah,  
   wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
   she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

*A time for silent reflection and / or brief commentary on the Gospel reading*

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 Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength and stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer. That God may bring in his kingdom with Judgement and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Presider That God may establish among nations his sceptre of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Presider That we may seek him in the scripture and recognize him in the breaking of bread, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Presider That God may bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Presider (Any individual prayers…)

let us pray to the Lord.

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

Presider That with all saints in light,  
we may shine forth as lights of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Presider So we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our loving God.

***Collect***

Presider O God,  
who set before us the great hope  
that your kingdom shall come on earth and taught us to pray for its coming: give us grace to discern the signs of its dawn and to work for the perfect day when the whole world shall reflect your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

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

**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,   
and the power, and the glory,   
for ever and 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.**