**Thursday Morning Prayer**

**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*

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 forever. Amen

**The Word of God**

**45**    
1 My heart is stirring with a noble song;  
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; \*  
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.  
  
2 You are the fairest of men; \*  
grace flows from your lips,  
because God has blessed you for ever.  
  
3 Strap your sword upon your thigh, O mighty warrior, \*  
in your pride and in your majesty.  
  
4 Ride out and conquer in the cause of truth \*  
and for the sake of justice.  
  
5 Your right hand will show you marvelous things; \*  
your arrows are very sharp, O mighty warrior.  
  
6 The peoples are falling at your feet, \*  
and the king's enemies are losing heart.

7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, \*  
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom;  
you love righteousness and hate iniquity.

## The Gospel

## Matthew 18:1-6

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’ He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

‘If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were fastened around your neck and you were drowned in the depth of the sea.

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

Form all 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.**