**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*

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**

**50** *Deus deorum*

1 The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; \*  
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
  
2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, \*  
God reveals himself in glory.  
  
3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; \*  
before him there is a consuming flame,  
and round about him a raging storm.  
  
4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above \*  
to witness the judgment of his people.  
  
5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, \*  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."  
  
6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; \*  
for God himself is judge.  
  
7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak:  
"O Israel, I will bear witness against you; \*  
for I am God, your God.  
  
8 I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; \*  
your offerings are always before me.  
  
9 I will take no bull-calf from your stalls, \*  
nor he-goats out of your pens;  
  
10 For all the beasts of the forest are mine, \*  
the herds in their thousands upon the hills.

11 I know every bird in the sky, \*  
and the creatures of the fields are in my sight.  
  
12 If I were hungry, I would not tell you, \*  
for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.

**Gospel** Mark 6:30-46

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, ‘Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.’ For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late;send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.’ But he answered them, ‘You give them something to eat.’ They said to him, ‘Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?’ And he said to them, ‘How many loaves have you? Go and see.’ When they had found out, they said, ‘Five, and two fish.’ Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

*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

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.**