Morning Praise
A Service of Morning Prayer
Morning Praise

In the pattern of daily prayer, worship begins by opening our hearts and voices to the presence of God. The words that begin this service remind us that life itself is a gift of God.

The service continues with a morning hymn and the singing of psalms, considered a primary element of daily prayer. Through the singing of psalms, we express many things: adoration, praise, thanksgiving for God's deliverance, lament, confession, intercession, and teaching. Used in the context of prayer, they are at the same time God's words to us and our response to God. In silence after each psalm, we continue to listen for God's voice.

So too, as a part of daily prayer, we hear and reflect on readings from the Bible. Our response to the word of God is summed up in singing one of the great scriptural songs from the gospel of Luke. With these songs the church both proclaims and hears the liberating good news.

While all of daily prayer is in a sense praying, we conclude with intentional forms of prayer, giving thanks for the gifts of God; praying for others and for ourselves; and the Lord's Prayer. The word of God's blessing concludes the service, and may be followed by a sign of peace.

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(the congregation stands)

OPENING

Leader:

Psalm 103:1
Holy God! Fill us this day with new breath!

All:

And we shall be living words of praise!
1. Sing your joy, proclaim God’s glory!
2. All the earth is filled with rejoicing,
3. May we learn to become your Kingdom,
4. Light our way, O God of the living,

Rise and sing, the morning has come!
Light and life the wonder of God!
May we be your kindness and truth!
May we learn to see with new eyes!

Bless our God and praise all creation;
Christ has triumphed! Risen forever!
Love is our calling, gift of your presence;
Jesus the Lord, our power and promise;

Song of the earth, and light from heaven:
Joy of our hearts, and hope of our dreaming:
Children of God, and spirit of Jesus:
Light for the blind, and food for the hungry:

God is alive! Alleluia!
God is alive! Alleluia!
God is alive! Alleluia!
God is alive! Alleluia!

The congregation is seated.
PSALMODY (One of the following Psalms, or another may be use. The congregation remains seated.)

PSALM 95

Verses: Leader

1. Come, ring out your joy to the Lord, hail the rock who saves us, let us come now before our God, with songs let us hail the Lord. [Refrain, All]

2. Come, let us bow and bend low, let us kneel before God who made us, for here is our God; we the people, the flock that is led by God's hand. [Refrain, All]

3. O that today you would hear God's voice, "Harden not your hearts, as on that day in the desert, when your parents put me to the test." [Refrain, All]

a brief time of silence follows the singing of the Psalm

Psalm Prayer (concludes the silence)
Verses: Leader

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.
   My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water,
   So I gaze on you in your holy place to see your strength and your glory.  [Refrain, All]

2. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise.
   So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands.
   My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you in joy. [Refrain, All]

3. On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night
   for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
   My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. [Refrain, All]

*a brief time of silence follows the singing of the Psalm*

Psalm Prayer *(concludes the silence)*
L: O Lord our Lord, how excellent is your name in all the world!

C: Out of the mouths of infants and children your majesty is praised above the heavens.

You have set up a gainst your adversaries to quell the enemy and the avenger. [Antiphon, All]

L: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

C: What are human beings that you should be mindful of them? Mortals that you should seek them out?

You have made them but little lower than the angels; You adorn them with glory and honor; [Antiphon, All]

L: You give them mastery over the works of your hands; You put all things under their feet:

C: All sheep and oxen, Even the wild beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, And whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea. [Antiphon, All]

a brief time of silence follows the singing of the Psalm

Psalm Prayer (concludes the silence)
The service includes one or more scripture readings, followed by silence for reflection. Other forms of reflection may also follow, such as a brief commentary, teaching, or personal witness.

GOSPEL CANTICLE

*(the congregation stands)*

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1. Now bless the God of Israel, who comes in love and pow'r;
2. Remembering the covenant, God rescues us from fear, That we might serve in day-spring from on high, Our rising sun, the royal house deliverance in this hour. Through holiness and peace from year to year. And
3. In tender mercy God will send the light of life for those who sit and sigh. God you, my child, shall go before to comes to guide our way to peace, that free us from alarm, To save us from the preach, to prophesy, That all may know the death shall reign no more. Sing praises to the heavy hand of all who wish us harm. tender love, the grace of God most high. Holy One! O worship and adore!
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Leader:

1. Show us your mercy       Lord;
2. Clothe your ministers with    righteousness;
3. Give peace, O Lord in all the  world;
4. Keep this nation under your    care;
5. Let your way be known upon    earth;
6. Let not the needy be for-    gotten;
7. Create in us clean hearts, O    God;

All:

And grant us your sal    va    -    tion.
1. Let your people         sing   for    joy.
In you we can live in      safe    -    ty.
Guiding us in justice     and    in    truth.
Your saving health among all    na    -    tions.
Nor the hope of all to    be    de    nied.
And sustain us in your holy    Spir   -   it.

(Other intercessions may be spoken here)
THE LORD'S PRAYER *(may be spoken, or sung)*

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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.
A greeting of peace may be shared by all.
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Service elements are as follows:


Morning Hymn: Text and tune by David Haas. © 1987, GIA Publications, Inc.


Psalm 95: Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; David Haas. Music by David Haas. © 1983, 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

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