

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
 whose only Son has opened for us
 a new and living way into your presence:
 give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
 to worship you in spirit and in truth;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING - Colossians 1.15-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers - all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

This is the word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM - Psalm 96

Response: *Sing to the Lord a new song;
 O sing to the Lord, all the earth.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! alleluia!
 I am the light of the world, say the Lord.
 Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness
 but will have the light of life.
 Alleluia!

GOSPEL - Matthew 8.23-27

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
 Glory to you, O Lord.*

And when Jesus got into the boat, his disciples followed him. A gale arose on the lake, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, 'Lord, save us! We are perishing!' And he said to them, 'Why are you afraid, you of little faith?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, 'What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, O Christ.*

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Great and holy God, accept our offering of labour and love:
 may we bring you true and spiritual worship
 and be one with you
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Lord God, the source of truth and love,
 keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and
 fellowship,
 united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
 and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
 in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.***