**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. ***Amen***.

**FIRST READING - Wisdom 6.12-16**

*A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon*

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

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

**PSALM - Psalm 70**

Response: ***O Lord, make haste to help me.***

**SECOND READING - 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18**

*A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.*

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia! alleluia!
I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord.
No one comes to the Father except through me.
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL - Matthew 25.1-13**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew*

***Glory to you, O Lord***.

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

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

**PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

Holy God, in Christ you make all things one:
may we who are reconciled at this table
bring wholeness to our broken world;
we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen***.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**God of peace,**
**whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom**
**and restored the broken to wholeness of life:**
**look with compassion on the anguish of the world,**
**and by your healing power**
**make whole both people and nations;**
**through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**. ***Amen***.

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