Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”  

**Confession of Sin**  

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us from all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

**The Invitatory and Psalter**  

O God, make speed to save us.  
*O Lord, make haste to help us.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.*

*Alleluia.*

**O Gracious Light Phos hilaron**  

O gracious light,  
*pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,*  
*O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!*  

*Now as we come to the setting of the sun,*  
*and our eyes behold the vesper light,*  
*we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,*  
*O Son of God, O Giver of life,*  
*and to be glorified through all the worlds.*
The Lord is my shepherd; *  
I shall not be in want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures *  
and leads me beside still waters.  
He revives my soul *  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.  
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.  
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? *  
the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?  
When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *  
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.  
Though an army should encamp against me, *  
yet my heart shall not be afraid;  
And though war should rise up against me, *  
yet will I put my trust in him.  
One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; *  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;  
To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *  
and to seek him in his temple.  
For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; *  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.  
Even now he lifts up my head *  
above my enemies round about me.  
Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; *  
I will sing and make music to the Lord.  
Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *  
have mercy on me and answer me.  
You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *  
Your face, Lord, will I seek.  
Hide not your face from me, *  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.  
You have been my helper; cast me not away; *  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.  
Though my father and my mother forsake me, *  
the Lord will sustain me.
Show me your way, O Lord; * 
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.  
Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, * 
for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice. 
What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the Lord * in the land of the living!
O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; * wait patiently for the Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: 
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

A reading from Esther 2:5-8, 15-23

Now there was a Jew in the citadel of Susa whose name was Mordecai son of Jair son of Shimei son of Kish, a Benjaminite. Kish had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with King Jeconiah of Judah, whom King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had carried away. Mordecai had brought up Hadassah, that is Esther, his cousin, for she had neither father nor mother; the girl was fair and beautiful, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai adopted her as his own daughter. So when the king’s order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in the citadel of Susa in the custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken into the king’s palace and put in the custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women.

When the turn came for Esther daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had adopted her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king’s eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther was admired by all who saw her. When Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus in his royal palace in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, the king loved Esther more than all the other women; of all the virgins she won his favour and devotion, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. Then the king gave a great banquet to all his officials and ministers—‘Esther’s banquet.’ He also granted a holiday to the provinces, and gave gifts with royal liberality.

When the virgins were being gathered together, Mordecai was sitting at the king’s gate. Now Esther had not revealed her kindred or her people, as Mordecai had charged her; for Esther obeyed Mordecai just as when she was brought up by him. In those days, while Mordecai was sitting at the king’s gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king’s eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Ahasuerus. But the matter came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai. When the affair was investigated and found to be so, both the men were hanged on the gallows. It was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king.

The Word of the Lord. 
Thanks be to God.
The First Song of Isaiah  
Ecce, Deus  
Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me; * 
I will trust in him and not be afraid: 
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense; * 
and he will be my Savior. 
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing* 
from the springs of salvation. 
And on that day you shall say, * 
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; 
Make his deeds known among the peoples; * 
see that they remember that his Name is exalted. 
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, * 
and this is known in all the world. 
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, * 
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * 
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. *

A reading from John 12:44-50

Then Jesus cried aloud: ‘Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me.’

The Word of the Lord. 
Thanks be to God.

The Song of Mary  
Magnificat  
Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, 
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; * 
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. 
From this day all generations will call me blessed: * 
the Almighty has done great things for me, 
and holy is his Name. 
He has mercy on those who fear him * 
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers,*
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

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 for ever. Amen.

Suffrages B

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,
We entreat you, O Lord.
That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear,
and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in
the communion of St. Luke, St. Theodore, and all your saints,
entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

Collect of the Day

O God, you led your holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place: Grant that your Church, under the
guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and
may uphold them in their work for the extension of your kingdom; through the great Shepherd and
Bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen.

A Collect for Saturdays

O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth your unending day upon us who watch for you, that our
lips may praise you, our lives may bless you, and our worship on the morrow give you glory; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for Peace

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us your
servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your
will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through
the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Prayer for Mission

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all
nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and
serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Spoken hymn

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ,
In you the Father’s glory shone.
Immortal, holy, blest is he,
And blest are you, his holy Son.
Intercessions and Thanksgivings

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.
Ephesians 3:20, 21
Today the church remembers Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, 690.

The seventh century was not an age of international understanding and communication. However, the church clearly thought of itself as one worldwide body. In 668 an African monk recommended to Pope Vitalian of Rome that he dispatch Theodore, a Greek whose hometown was Tarsus (in modern Turkey), to England to fill the vacant See of Canterbury. And so it was done.

Theodore turned out to be one of the most brilliant and effective Archbishops England ever had. He visited all of England and secured the unity of the Christian people of the land under the leadership of Canterbury. He called two important councils of the English church, one at Hertford and one at Hatfield, which ratified the orthodoxy and unity of the Church of England. He was tolerant of local traditions as long as they did not generate heresy or schism.

Theodore was an exceptionally well-educated and cosmopolitan individual. He is said to have written much, but unfortunately his scholarly work was little appreciated in primitive England and none of it survives to this day. His monument is the Church of England: catholic, orthodox, and unified.

*O God, raise up in your church good and faithful stewards of the mysteries of Christ, as you did in your servant Theodore. Amen.*

Almighty God, you called your servant Theodore of Tarsus from Rome to the see of Canterbury, and gave him gifts of grace and wisdom to establish unity where there had been division, and order where there had been chaos: Create in your Church, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, such godly union and concord that it may proclaim, both by word and example, the Gospel of the Prince of Peace; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*