Basics on officiating Morning Prayer, Rite II with a sermon as the principal liturgy for the Lord’s Day

If you decide to do Morning Prayer with different prayer postures, the recommended ones are offered, but not required—this all depends on your context of where you are leading MP.

- The service does not call for an opening hymn, but if that is important in your context, you can justify using one in that it occurs “before” the service *(standing)*

- Opening Sentence (per the appropriate season of the church year. For March 2020, one of the Lenten sentences on p.76 would be appropriate) *(standing)*

- Choose a bidding to Confession
  - Either “Dearly beloved, we have come together…” or “Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.”

- You may allow some silence here *(kneeling or standing)*

- Pray the Confession of Sin: “Most merciful God…” *(kneeling or standing)*

- Share God’s absolution if priest (or bishop), then use the absolution as printed, if deacon or lay person, please substitute this version: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us 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. *(only a priest or bishop would stand to say the absolution, unless all have been standing for the whole service)*

- Continue on p.80 with “Lord, open our lips/and our mouth shall proclaim your praise/Glory to the Father…” *(standing)*

- You may use the seasonally appropriate antiphon before and after the Venite or Jubilate. For Lent it is: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him. It is common for the officiant to say the first phrase, and for the people to join the officiant in saying the second phrase. *(standing)*

- Say the Venite or the Jubilate on page 82, and if you began with the antiphon, please conclude with the antiphon a second time. *(standing)*

- The Psalm Appointed is next. *(seated)*
  - If this service is your principal Sunday service, then you will use the psalm from the Sunday Eucharistic lectionary, not the Daily Office Lectionary. Lectionarypage.net is a good quick resource for finding that psalm for the appropriate Sunday. If you are leading this service online and by yourself, I would recommend leading the psalm in unison, but if you have some people who are praying there with you, you might consider one of the other methods recommended in the BCP on pages 582-582, such as reading the psalm responsively by whole verse with the officiant saying the odd verses, and the people saying the even. At the conclusion of the psalm you say “Glory to the Father…” *(standing)*

- Next is the 1st reading, and again, if this is your principal Sunday service, the Old Testament lesson from the Sunday Eucharistic lectionary would be appropriate: see lectionarypage.net for quick resource *(reader standing, if possible, all else seated)*

- After the 1st lesson follows a canticle. The suggested canticle in Lent is Canticle 14, Kyrie Pantokrator, page 90. You can find the suggested canticle table on page 144. This canticle can be said or sung. *(standing)*

- Next is the 2nd lesson, and for the Sunday principal service, the Sunday Eucharistic reading from the Epistle is appropriate here *(reader standing, if possible, all else seated)*
• After the 2nd lesson is the 2nd Canticle. The suggested Canticle to follow the Epistle in Lent is Canticle 16, Benedictus Dominus, page 92. This canticle can be said or sung. *(standing)*

• (assuming Sunday principal service), then follows the Gospel, from the Sunday Eucharistic lectionary *(reader standing, if possible, all else seated)*

• Sermon/Homily: After the Gospel—this is one of the 2 times in the body of Morning Prayer that is recommended for the sermon. This is also the time that most people would be used to hearing it. *(preacher standing if possible, all else seated)*

• Following the Sermon is The Apostles Creed on page 96 *(standing)*

• The salutation follows on page 97 “The Lord be with you”, if you are doing this with no one else in the room, I would also encourage you to respond “and also with you.” *(standing)*

• The Lord’s Prayer said by all *(standing or kneeling)*

• Choose Suffrages A on page 97 or Suffrages B on page 98 (officiant does the V lines, people do the R; if officiant is only person present, please do both V and R lines) *(continue either standing or kneeling)*

• 2 Collects are recommended: the Collect of the Day, which matches the Sunday for the Eucharistic lectionary. March 15 2020 is Lent 3, found on page 218 and the Collect for Sundays on page 98.

• Then follows one of the 3 (officiant chooses) prayers for mission on the bottom of page 100-top of page 101.

• If you are singing a hymn for the service, it would be sung here. If you are streaming, you can sing a hymn whose text and music are in the public domain. See the end of this overview for some that are in Episcopal hymnals that are also in the Public Domain *(standing)*

• Other option for sermon/homily is after the collects or after the hymn

• Intercessions or thanksgivings are now shared here. You can have this be freeform, or you can also use a version of the Prayers of the People found on pages 383-393 (omit the confession in Form VI, since already done at the opening of the service)

• Pray together the General Thanksgiving *(standing or kneeling)*

• If you pray the “Prayer of St. Chrysostom”, it is commonly said only by the officiant *(standing or kneeling)*

• Officiant says “Let us bless the Lord,” people respond with “Thanks be to God” *(standing)*

• Officiant says one of the 3 closing sentences on page 102.

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*Some hymns in Episcopal Hymnals also in the Public Domain (website for lyrics and music appended for each):*

- I sing the mighty power of God (with a different tune than is in Hymnal 82, but it is still a tune used in the Hymnal 82, with other words) [http://www.hymnsuntogod.org/Hymns-PD/I-Hymns/I-Sing-The-Mighty-Power-Of-God.html](http://www.hymnsuntogod.org/Hymns-PD/I-Hymns/I-Sing-The-Mighty-Power-Of-God.html)
It is well with my soul LEVAS 188 http://www.hymnsuntogod.org/Hymn-Files/Public-Domain-Hymns/I-Hymns/It-Is-Well-With-My-Soul/ItIsWellWithMySoul.pdf

Nearer my God to thee LEVAS 54 http://www.hymnsuntogod.org/Hymn-Files/Public-Domain-Hymns/N-Hymns/Nearer-My-God-To-Thee/NearerMyGodToThee.pdf


The King of love my shepherd is, Hymn 646 http://www.hymnsuntogod.org/Hymn-Files/Public-Domain-Hymns/T-Hymns/The-King-Of-Love-My-Shepherd-Is/TheKingOfLoveMyShepherdIs.pdf
Morning Prayer: Rite II

Opening Scripture Sentence  BCP 75-78
Bidding and Confession kneeling BCP 79

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.

Absolution  BCP 80

Opening Versicle standing BCP 80
Officiant Lord open our lips.
People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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

Venite BCP 82

The Psalm Appointed seated, use Psalm in Sunday bulletin insert At the end of the Psalms is sung or said
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.

Old Testament Reading
after the reading, the reader says “Here ends the reading”

Canticle 14 all, standing BCP 90

Epistle Reading seated after the reading, the reader says “Here ends the reading”

Canticle 16 all, standing BCP 92

Gospel Reading seated after the reading, the reader says “Here ends the reading”

Homily

The Apostles’ Creed Officiant and People together, all standing

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, standing or kneeling Officiant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Officiant Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Suffrages Officiant says V, People say R
V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collects Officiant prays the Collect of the Day, another collect, and the Prayer for Mission

Office Hymn An offering may be received during the hymn

The Prayers of the People

General Thanksgiving Officiant and people
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.

Dismissal Officiant Let us bless the Lord. 
People Thanks be to God.

Concluding Scripture Sentence