Morning Prayer

Saturday, January 11, 2003

Christmas Season — January 11

OPENING

O God, come to my assistance.

Lord, make haste to help me.

Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

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.

HYMN

O Come, All Faithful

O come, all faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord;
born this happy morning, O come and adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,
he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all you citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Psalm 119 *How Shall a Young Man Cleanse His Way? (Beth)*

> *Ant. Today Christ is born for us; glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.*

In what way does a young man correct his path? By keeping your words.

With my whole heart I have sought you; do not push me away from your commandments.

In my heart I have hidden your eloquence, so that I may not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your justifications.

With my lips, I have pronounced all the judgments of your mouth.

I have been delighted in the way of your testimonies, as if in all riches.

I will meditate on your commandments, and I will consider your ways.

I will think about your justifications; I will not forget your words.

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.

> *Ant. Today Christ is born for us; glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.*

Psalm 131 *Remember David's Oath*

> *Ant. Today Christ is born for us; glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.*

O Lord, remember David and all his meekness.

How he swore to the Lord; he made a vow to the God of Jacob.

"I will not enter into the tabernacle of my house, nor will I climb into the bed where I lie;"

"I will not give sleep to my eyes, or slumber to my eyelids,"

"or rest to my temples, until I find a place for the Lord, a tabernacle for the God of Jacob."

Behold, we heard of it in Ephrata; we found it in the fields of the forest.

We will enter into his tabernacle; we will adore in the place where his feet have stood.

Arise, O Lord, into your rest, you and the ark of your sanctification.

Let your priests be clothed with justice, and let your holy ones exult.

For the sake of your servant David, do not turn away the face of your Christ.

The Lord has sworn truth to David, and he will not make it void.

"Of the fruit of your womb, I will set upon your throne."

"If your sons will keep my covenant and my testimonies which I will teach them,"

"their sons also, even forever, will sit upon your throne."

For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has chosen it for his dwelling.

"This is my rest forever and ever; here I will dwell, for I have chosen it."

"Blessing, I will bless her widow; her poor I will satisfy with bread."

"Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her holy ones will exult with exultation."

"There I will raise up a horn for David; I have prepared a lamp for my Christ."

"His enemies I will clothe with confusion, but upon him my sanctification will flourish."

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.

> *Ant. Today Christ is born for us; glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.*

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE (WISDOM 9:1–6, 9–11)

O God of my fathers and Lord of mercy, who made all things by your word,

and by your wisdom you have established man, so that he may have dominion over the creature that was made by you,

and that he may order the world in equity and justice, and execute judgment with an upright heart:

give me wisdom, the consort of your thrones, and do not reject me from among your children.

For I am your servant and the son of your handmaid, a weak man and of short life,

and too little to understand judgment and laws.

For wisdom is with you, knowing your works, which was also present when you made the world.

And she knows what is pleasing in your eyes, and what is right in your commandments.

Send her from the holy heavens, and from the throne of your majesty send her, so that she may be with me and may work with me.

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.

SHORT READING

COLOSSIANS 1:15

> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

RESPONSORY

V. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

R. and we have seen his glory.

V. Full of grace and truth,

R. we have seen his glory.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: BENEDICTUS (LUKE 1:68-79)

THE CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (BENEDICTUS) (LUKE 1:68–79)

> *Ant. Today Christ is born; today the Savior has appeared; today the angels are singing on earth.*

Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and accomplished the redemption of his people.

And he has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David his servant.

As he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets, those who have been from the beginning:

Salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

To show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,

the oath which he swore to our father Abraham, that he would grant to us,

that being freed from the hand of our enemies, we might serve him without fear,

in holiness and justice before him, throughout all our days.

And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the face of the Lord, to prepare his ways.

To give knowledge of salvation to his people, for the remission of their sins,

through the compassionate mercy of our God, by which the Rising Sun has visited us from on high,

to illuminate those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to direct our feet in the way of peace.

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.

> *Ant. Today Christ is born; today the Savior has appeared; today the angels are singing on earth.*

MORNING INTERCESSIONS

Rejoicing in the birth of Christ our Savior, let us offer our prayers, saying:

For peace in the world, that the Prince of Peace may reign in every heart and in every nation: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Glory to God in the highest.*

For children and families, especially those experiencing poverty, that they may know the warmth and security that the Holy Family sought: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Glory to God in the highest.*

For refugees and those far from home, that they may find welcome and shelter: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Glory to God in the highest.*

For our parish and our bishop, that the joy of Christmas may deepen our life together in faith: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Glory to God in the highest.*

For those for whom Christmas is a time of grief or loneliness, that your comfort may surround them: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Glory to God in the highest.*

For a spirit of generosity in this season, that we may share our gifts as God has shared the greatest gift: we pray to you, O Lord.

Glory to God in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as the Lord himself has taught us:

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin. Grant that we, being regenerate and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless us: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.