Evening Prayer

Friday, December 26, 2003

Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

OPENING

O God, come to my assistance.

Lord, make haste to help 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.

HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child,
holy infant, so tender and mild;
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Psalm 145 *Praise the Lord, O My Soul (Part I)*

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

Praise the Lord, O my soul; in my life I will praise the Lord; I will sing to my God as long as I live.

Do not trust in leaders, in the sons of men, in whom there is no salvation.

His spirit will depart, and he will return to his earth; on that day all their thoughts will perish.

Blessed is he whose helper is the God of Jacob; his hope is in the Lord his God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them.

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 145 *Praise the Lord, O My Soul (Part II)*

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

Who keeps truth forever; who executes judgment for those who suffer wrong.

Who gives bread to the hungry; the Lord releases the shackled.

The Lord gives sight to the blind; the Lord lifts up those who have been crushed.

The Lord loves the just; the Lord guards the newcomers.

He will take up the orphan and the widow, and the way of sinners he will destroy.

The Lord will reign forever; your God, O Zion, throughout generation and generation.

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.*

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE (REVELATION 11:17–18; 12:10–12)

We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was; for you have taken up your great power and you have reigned.

And the nations were angry, and your wrath has come, and the time for the dead to be judged, and to give the reward to your servants the prophets.

And to the saints and to those who fear your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who corrupted the earth.

Now has arrived the salvation and the virtue and the kingdom of our God and the power of his Christ.

For the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, he who accused them before our God day and night.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

And they loved not their lives, even in the face of death.

Because of this, rejoice, O heavens, and all who dwell in them.

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

TITUS 2:11

> For the grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age.

RESPONSORY

V. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.

R. For today a great light has descended upon the earth. Alleluia.

V. Sing to the Lord a new song,

R. for he has done marvelous things. Alleluia.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: MAGNIFICAT (LUKE 1:46-55)

THE CANTICLE OF MARY (MAGNIFICAT) (LUKE 1:46–55)

> *Ant. Holy Mother of God, ever-virgin Mary, who have given birth to the King of kings, intercede for us.*

My soul magnifies the Lord.

And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

Because he has regarded the humility of his handmaid; for behold, from henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

Because he who is powerful has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

And his mercy is from generation to generation for those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.

He has deposed the powerful from their seat, and he has exalted the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has received Israel, his servant, being mindful of his mercy.

As he spoke to our fathers: to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

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. Holy Mother of God, ever-virgin Mary, who have given birth to the King of kings, intercede for us.*

EVENING INTERCESSIONS

As evening falls during this Christmas season, let us pray in the name of the one who was born for us, saying:

For peace in our world, that the peace proclaimed at Bethlehem may become a reality among nations: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Glory to God in the highest.*
For those who are isolated or forgotten at this time of year, that they may know they are not alone: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Glory to God in the highest.*
For children, that this season may be one of wonder, security, and love for them: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Glory to God in the highest.*
For all who mourn, especially those who have lost a loved one since last Christmas, that hope may comfort them: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Glory to God in the highest.*
For our bishop and all who lead our church, that they may reflect the light of Christ in their ministry: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Glory to God in the highest.*
For those who have died, that they may share in the eternal Christmas of heaven: 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

Eternal Word, you became a child among us and made your dwelling among us. Stay with us through this night and always; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. 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.

MARIAN ANTIPHON

ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

Loving Mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, assist your people who have fallen, yet strive to rise again. To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before. You who

received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.