Office of Readings

Sunday, January 4, 2004

2nd Sunday of Christmas

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.

INVITATORY

Ant. Christ is born for us. Come, let us adore him.

Come, let us exult in the Lord; let us shout with joy to God our salvation.

Let us come before his face with praise and exult in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.

For the Lord does not cast off his people; for in his hand are all the ends of the earth.

And the heights of the mountains belong to him.

For the sea is his, and he made it; and his hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us adore and fall down before God; let us weep before the Lord who made us.

For he is the Lord our God; and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

As in the provocation, according to the day of temptation in the wilderness,

where your fathers tempted me; they tried me and saw my works.

For forty years I was close to this generation, and I said: "They always err in heart."

And these people have not known my ways, so I swore in my wrath that they will not enter into my rest.

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. Christ is born for us. Come, let us adore him.

HYMN

What Child Is This

> What child is this, who, laid to rest,
> on Mary's lap is sleeping?
> Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
> while shepherds watch are keeping?

PSALMODY

Psalm 22 *A Psalm of David Not Attributed*

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

The Lord governs me, and nothing will be lacking for me; he has placed me in a place of pasture.

He has led me to the water of refreshment; he has converted my soul.

He has led me along the paths of justice, for the sake of his name.

For even if I walk in the midst of the shadow of death, I will not fear evil, for you are with me.

Your rod and your staff: these have comforted me.

You have prepared a table before me against those who trouble me.

You have anointed my head with oil, and my chalice which inebriates me, how excellent it is!

And your mercy will follow me all the days of my life. And so may I dwell in the house of the Lord 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. Today Christ is born for us; glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.*

Psalm 23 *The Lord Is My Shepherd*

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

The Lord governs me, and nothing will be lacking for me; he has placed me in a place of pasture.

He has led me to the water of refreshment; he has converted my soul.

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For even if I walk in the midst of the shadow of death, I will not fear evil, for you are with me.

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You have anointed my head with oil, and my chalice which inebriates me, how excellent it is!

And your mercy will follow me all the days of my life. And so may I dwell in the house of the Lord 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. Today Christ is born for us; glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.*

Psalm 24 *The King of Glory Enters*

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

The earth is the Lord's and its fullness: the world and all who dwell in it.

For he founded it upon the seas and prepared it upon the rivers.

Who will ascend the mountain of the Lord? Or who will stand in his holy place?

The innocent in hands and clean in heart, who has not received his soul in vain nor sworn deceitfully to his neighbor.

He will receive a blessing from the Lord and mercy from God his Savior.

This is the generation of those who seek him, of those who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your gates, O princes, and be lifted up, O eternal gates, and the King of Glory will enter.

Who is this King of Glory? The Lord who is strong and powerful, the Lord powerful in battle.

Lift up your gates, O princes, and be lifted up, O eternal gates, and the King of Glory will enter.

Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of hosts; he is the King of Glory.

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.*

FIRST READING: SCRIPTURE

1 JOHN 4:14

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.

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.

SECOND READING: PATRISTIC OR HAGIOGRAPHIC

Origen of Alexandria

Homily on Luke 13

The Gift of the Magi

> The Magi came from the east and brought gifts to the Lord. Gold was given to him as to a king; frankincense as to God; myrrh as to one who would die. Now we too can offer gifts to the Lord. If you have gold, that is the

> wealth of good deeds, offer it to him. If you have frankincense, that is the prayer that rises like incense to God from a pure conscience, offer it to him. If you have myrrh, and myrrh here signifies the mortification of the flesh, offer it to him. The Lord has no lack of earthly gold, but he desires the gold of your virtue. He is not without incense from Arabia, but he seeks the prayer of your heart. And myrrh — what does he need with the myrrh of Sheba? — he looks for your willingness to take up the cross and follow him. Therefore let us come to the manger where the Christ-child lies and offer him what we have: our hearts, our prayers, and our lives dedicated to his service.

TE DEUM

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CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord God, in reading and prayer today may we come to know your Son more deeply, love him more truly, and follow him more closely; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Let us praise the Lord.
And give him thanks.