Night Prayer

Saturday, December 25, 2004

The Nativity of the Lord (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.

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

HYMN

Still the Night

Still the night, holy the night;
the world is wrapped in sleep so white;
may we lay ourselves to rest
in the peace the Christ-child blessed;
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

In the hush of this holy night,
the star of Bethlehem burns bright;
guard us, Lord, through all the hours;
keep our sleeping souls as yours;
grant us heavenly rest,
grant us heavenly rest.

PSALMODY

Psalm 91 *It Is Good to Give Thanks*

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

It is good to confess to the Lord and to sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

To announce your mercy in the morning and your truth throughout the night,

upon a ten-stringed instrument, upon a psaltery, with a canticle on the harp.

For you have delighted me, O Lord, in your works, and in the works of your hands I will rejoice.

How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are exceedingly deep.

The foolish man will not understand this, and the foolish one will not understand these things.

When the sinners spring up like grass, and when all those who work iniquity appear,

it is so that they may fall in eternity and eternity.

But you, O Lord, are Most High forever.

For behold your enemies, O Lord, for behold your enemies will perish; and all those who work iniquity will be dispersed.

And my horn will be exalted like that of the rhinoceros, and my old age in plentiful mercy.

And my eye has looked down upon my enemies; and my ear will hear of the downfall of the malicious who rise up against me.

The just will flourish like a palm tree; he will be multiplied like a cedar of Lebanon.

Those planted in the house of the Lord will flourish in the courts of the house of our God.

They will still be multiplied in a fruitful old age, and they will be patient so that they may announce

that the Lord our God is just and there is no iniquity in him.

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.*

SHORT READING

JOHN 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

RESPONSORY

V. The darkness is over and the true light is already shining.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: NUNC DIMITTIS (LUKE 2:29-32)

THE CANTICLE OF SIMEON (NUNC DIMITTIS) (LUKE 2:29–32)

> *Ant. A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.*

Now you release your servant, O Lord, according to your word, in peace.

Because my eyes have seen your salvation,

which you have prepared before the face of all peoples:

a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and a glory for your people 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 forever. Amen.

> *Ant. A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.*

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 entered the darkness of the world to be its light. Light our way through the night and bring us to the dawning of another day in your service; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May the Child Jesus grant us a restful night and bring us to the joy of his eternal light. Amen.

The Lord grant us a restful night and a peaceful death.
Amen.

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.