Evening Prayer

Saturday, December 31, 2005

Saint Sylvester I, Pope

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 119 *Your Testimonies Are Wonderful (Ain)*

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

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul has sought them.

The declaration of your words illuminates, and it gives understanding to little ones.

I opened my mouth and drew breath, because I longed for your commandments.

Look upon me and have mercy on me, according to the judgment of those who love your name.

Direct my steps according to your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Rescue me from the slander of men, and I will keep your commandments.

Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your justifications.

My eyes have sent forth springs of water, because they have not kept your law.

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 122 *To You I Lift My Eyes*

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

To you I have lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in heaven.

Behold, like the eyes of servants towards the hands of their masters,

like the eyes of a handmaid towards the hands of her mistress,

so are our eyes towards the Lord our God, until he has mercy on us.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us; for we are greatly filled with contempt.

For our soul has been greatly filled; a reproach to those who are at ease, and a contempt for the arrogant.

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 (1 PETER 2:21–24)

Christ also suffered on your behalf, leaving you an example so that you would follow his footsteps.

"He had committed no sin, and deceit was not found in his mouth."

When he was reviled, he did not revile. When he suffered, he did not threaten.

Instead, he handed himself over to the one who judged him unjustly.

He himself carried our sins in his body upon the cross,

so that, being dead to sins, we would live to justice,

"by his wounds you have been healed."

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

1 TIMOTHY 3:16

> Undeniably great is the mystery of devotion, who was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed to the Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.

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

O God, who gave us your only Son, in whom every gift is given: fill us with gratitude for your generosity, and make us generous in turn to all in need; through the same 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.

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.