Evening Prayer

Friday, January 6, 2006

The Epiphany of the Lord

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.

PSALMODY

Psalm 116 *Praise the Lord, All Nations*

> *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, all nations; praise him, all peoples.

For his mercy has been strengthened upon us; and the truth of the Lord remains 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 120 *I Lift My Eyes to the Mountains*

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

I have lifted up my eyes to the mountains, from which help will come to me.

My help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

May he not allow your foot to be moved; may he not slumber who guards you.

Behold, he who guards Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your guardian; the Lord is your protection at your right hand.

The sun will not burn you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord guards you from all evil; may the Lord guard your soul.

May the Lord guard your going out and your coming in, from this time forward and forevermore.

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 5:9–14)

Worthy are you to take the book and to open its seals;

for you were slain, and you have redeemed us for God in your blood.

And you have made us into a kingdom and priests for our God.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

To him who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb: blessing and honor and glory and power, forever and ever.

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.