Morning Prayer

Sunday, January 6, 2008

The Epiphany of the Lord

OPENING

O God, come to my assistance.

Lord, make haste to help me.

Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

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

O Come, All Faithful

O come, all faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord;
born this happy morning, O come and adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,
he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all you citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Psalm 118 *This Is the Day the Lord Has Made*

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

Give praise to the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy is forever.

Let Israel now say: for his mercy is forever.

Let the house of Aaron now say: for his mercy is forever.

Let those who fear the Lord now say: for his mercy is forever.

From my tribulation I called upon the Lord, and the Lord heard me and led me into a wide open space.

The Lord is my helper; I will not fear what man can do to me.

The Lord is my helper, and I will look down on my enemies.

It is good to take refuge in the Lord, rather than to trust in man.

It is good to hope in the Lord, rather than to hope in leaders.

All nations have surrounded me, and in the name of the Lord I have been avenged on them.

Surrounding me, they have besieged me, and in the name of the Lord I have been avenged on them.

They have surrounded me like bees; they have been extinguished like fire in thorns, and in the name of the Lord I have been avenged on them.

I was pushed and overturned so as to fall, but the Lord took me up.

The Lord is my strength and my praise, and he has become my salvation.

The voice of joy and salvation is in the tabernacles of the just.

The right hand of the Lord has acted virtuously; the right hand of the Lord has exalted me.

The right hand of the Lord has acted virtuously.

I will not die, but live, and I will declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord has disciplined me with discipline, but he has not handed me over to death.

Open to me the gates of justice; I will enter into them and I will confess to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the just will enter through it.

I will confess to you, because you have heard me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

This has been done by the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us exult and rejoice in it.

O Lord, save me; O Lord, give good success.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God, and he has shone upon us. Appoint a solemn day, with branches overflowing, even to the horn of the altar.

You are my God, and I will confess to you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

I will confess to you, because you have heard me and have become my salvation.

Give praise to the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy is 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 150 *Praise God in His Sanctuary*

> *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 in his holy places; praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to the multitude of his greatness.

Praise him with the sound of the trumpet; praise him with psaltery and harp.

Praise him with timbrel and choir; praise him with strings and pipe.

Praise him with well-sounding cymbals; praise him with cymbals of jubilation.

Let every spirit praise the Lord.

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.*

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE (SIRACH 36:1–7, 13–16)

Have mercy on us, O God of all, and look upon us, and show us the light of your mercy.

And send your fear upon the nations, those who have not sought you, so that they may know that there is no God beside you.

Renew signs, and repeat miracles; glorify your hand and your right arm.

Raise up indignation and pour out wrath; take away the adversary and crush the enemy.

Hasten the time and remember the end, so that they may declare your wonders.

Let him who escapes be consumed by the wrath of fire, and may those who harm your people find destruction.

Crush the head of the leaders of the enemies, who say, "There is no other besides us."

Gather all the tribes of Jacob together, and let them inherit, as in the beginning.

Have mercy on the people who are called by your name, Israel, whom you have named your firstborn.

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 JOHN 4:9

In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him.

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.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: BENEDICTUS (LUKE 1:68-79)

THE CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (BENEDICTUS) (LUKE 1:68–79)

> *Ant. Today Christ is born; today the Savior has appeared; today the angels are singing on earth.*

Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and accomplished the redemption of his people.
And he has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David his servant.
As he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets, those who have been from the beginning:
Salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.
To show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,
the oath which he swore to our father Abraham, that he would grant to us,
that being freed from the hand of our enemies, we might serve him without fear,
in holiness and justice before him, throughout all our days.
And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the face of the Lord, to prepare his ways.
To give knowledge of salvation to his people, for the remission of their sins,
through the compassionate mercy of our God, by which the Rising Sun has visited us from on high,
to illuminate those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to direct our feet in the way of peace.

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; today the Savior has appeared; today the angels are singing on earth.*

MORNING INTERCESSIONS

Rejoicing in the birth of Christ our Savior, let us offer our prayers, saying:

For peace in the world, that the Prince of Peace may reign in every heart and in every nation: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Glory to God in the highest.*

For children and families, especially those experiencing poverty, that they may know the warmth and security that the Holy Family sought: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Glory to God in the highest.*

For refugees and those far from home, that they may find welcome and shelter: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Glory to God in the highest.*

For our parish and our bishop, that the joy of Christmas may deepen our life together in faith: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Glory to God in the highest.*

For those for whom Christmas is a time of grief or loneliness, that your comfort may surround them: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Glory to God in the highest.*

For a spirit of generosity in this season, that we may share our gifts as God has shared the greatest gift: 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 by the birth of your eternal Word brought light to a darkened world, may that light shine in our hearts this day, that we may proclaim your good news to all; through 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.