VIGIL
FOR ALL NASCENT HUMAN LIFE
First Sunday of Advent
First Vespers
Rosary & Benediction
Archdiocese of Saint Louis
Institute of Sacred Music

Chant settings by
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From the writings of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI

“The Catholic community must offer support to those women who may find it difficult to accept a child, above all when they are isolated from their family and friends. Likewise, the community should be open to welcome back all who repent of having participated in the grave sin of abortion, and should guide them with pastoral charity to accept the grace of forgiveness, the need for penance, and the joy of entering once more into the new life of Christ.”

“The fundamental human right, the presupposition of every other right, is the right to life itself. This is true of life from the moment of conception until its natural end. Abortion, consequently, cannot be a human right -- it is the very opposite. It is a deep wound in society.”

“Selfishness and fear are at the root of (pro-abortion) legislation...We in the Church have a great struggle to defend life...life is a gift not a threat.”

“The freedom to kill is not a true freedom, but a tyranny that reduces human beings to slavery.”

“God’s love does not distinguish between the infant in the mother’s womb or the child or the youth or the adult or the older person. In each one God sees His image and likeness. Human life is a manifestation of God and His glory.”

As far as abortion is concerned, it’s part of the fifth, not the sixth, commandment: “Thou shalt not kill!” We have to presume this is obvious and always stress that the human person begins in the mother’s womb and remains a human person until his or her last breath. The human person must always be respected as a human person.

“...at the origin of every human being there is not something haphazard or chance, but a loving plan of God.”
O Mary, bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living,
to you do we entrust the cause of life
Look down, O Mother,
upon the vast numbers
of babies not allowed to be born,
of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
of men and women
who are victims of brutal violence,
of the elderly and the sick killed
by indifference or out of misguided mercy.

Grant that all who believe in your Son
may proclaim the Gospel of life
with honesty and love
to the people of our time.

Obtain for them the grace
to accept that Gospel
as a gift ever new,
the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
throughout their lives
and the courage to bear witness to it
resolutely, in order to build,
together with all people of good will,
the civilization of truth and love,
to the praise and glory of God,
the Creator and lover of life.

— Evangelium Vitæ, 105
ANTIPHON IN HONOR OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Loving Mother of our Redeemer Lord, Star of the sea

and portal of the skies, Unto thy fallen people help afford— Fallen, but striving

Tu que genuisti, Na-tu-ra mi-rante, tu-um still anew to rise. Thou who didst once, while wondering worlds adored.

Pity the sinners who before thee bow.

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VIGIL FOR ALL NASCENT HUMAN LIFE

First Sunday of Advent

AT I VESPERS

Exposition
of the Most Blessed Sacrament

ENTRANCE


Or:


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First Sunday of Advent

EXPOSITION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

O Salutaris Hostia

O salutáris hóstia,
O Saving Victim opening wide
Quæ cæli pandis óstium,
The gate of heav’n to man below:
Bella premunt hostília ;
Our foes press on from every side ;
Da robur, fer auxílium.
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.

Uni trinóque Dómino
All praise and thanks to thee ascend
Sit sempitérna glória : For evermore, blest One in Three ;
Qui vitam sine término
O grant us life that shall not end
Nobis donet in pátria.
In our true native land with thee.


A brief period of adoration follows.

CELEBRATION OF VESPERS

Celebrant : All :

 Юр

O God, come to my as-sistance. Р O Lord, make

haste to help me. Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and

to the Ho-ly Spir-it : as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now,

and will be for ev-er. A- men. Al- le- lu- ia.

The Holy Rosary

RECITATION OF THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

SUPPLICATIONS FOR LIFE

Let us pray to God, the Father of Life and Font of all Mercy:

Lord, have mercy on all who have sinned against life.

You knit us in our mother’s womb,
— preserve all children from bodily harm
From the moment of conception.

Your Son ennobled all human life
when he became flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary,
— enlighten our minds to see the dignity of every human life
from its earliest embryonic beginnings.

You are author of science and knowledge,
— bring an end to the destruction of human embryos
in research facilities and IVF clinics.

You are the law-giver and ruler of the world,
— help us to overturn unjust laws
that permit the destruction of innocent lives,
and guide our public officials to defend the littlest among us.

You love those who are afflicted,
— help parents of unborn children with disabilities
to cherish the baby you have entrusted to their care.

Your Son, Jesus, healed the sick,
— guide all doctors to be guardians of life,
especially the lives of unborn children
with serious health conditions.

Lord, you are love and mercy itself,
— draw all who have acted against innocent human life
to repentance and forgiveness,
and heal them through an outpouring of grace.
First Sunday of Advent

Intercessions

Jesus Christ is the joy and happiness of all who look forward to his coming. *
Let us call upon him and say:

Re: Come, Lord, and do not delay!

In joy, we wait for your coming. *
— come, Lord Jesus. Re: Come, Lord.
Before time began, you shared life with the Father, *
— come now and save us. Re: Come, Lord.
You created the world and all who live in it, *
— come to redeem the work of your hands. Re: Come, Lord.
You did not hesitate to become man, subject to death, *
— come to free us from the power of death. Re: Come, Lord.
You came to give us life to the full, *
— come and give us unending life. Re: Come, Lord.
You desire all people to live in love in your kingdom, *
— come and bring together those who long to see your face. Re

Our Father . . .

Prayer

All-powerful God,
increase our strength of will for doing good *
that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming
and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven,
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, *
one God, for ever and ever.

At Vespers

Hymn

Conditor alme siderum. Mode 4

Re- a- tor of the stars of night, Thy peo- ple's ev- er-
last-ing light, Je-sus, Redeemer, save us all, And hear thy ser-
ants when they call.

Thou, grieving that the ancient curse
Should doom to death a universe
Hast found the medicine, full of grace,
To save and heal a ruined race.

Thou cam'st, the Bridegroom of the bride,
As drew the world to evening-tide ;
Proceeding from a virgin shrine,
The spotless Victim all divine :

At whose dread name, majestic now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow ;
And things celestial thee shall own,
And things terrestrial, Lord alone.

O thou whose coming is with dread
To judge and doom the quick and dead,
Preserve us, while we dwell below,
From every insult of the foe.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Laud, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally.

A- men.
First Sunday of Advent

Psalmody

A

1 Ant. VII d

P

Ro-claim the good news a-mong the na-tions: * Our God will come to save us.

B

1 Ant. VII d

P

Ro-claim the good news * a-mong the na-tions: Our God will come to save us.

At I Vespers

he has re-membered his promise of mer-cy,

9. the prom-ise he made to our fa-thers, * to A-bra-ham and his children for ev-er.

10. Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, * and to the Ho-ly Spir-it:

11. as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now * and will be for ev-er. A-men.

All:

Anti-phon

See the Lord com-ing from a-far; his splen-dor fills the earth.
4. He has mercy on those who fear him * in every generation.

5. He has shown the strength of his arm, * he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

6. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, * and has lifted up the lowly.

7. He has filled the hungry with good things, * and the rich he has sent away empty.

8. He has come to the help of his servant, Israel * for

At I Vespers

Psalm 140

1. I have called to you, Lord; / hasten to help me ! * Hear my voice when I cry to you.

2. Let my prayer arise before you like incense, * the raising of my hands like an evening oblation.

3. Set, O Lord, a guard over my mouth; keep watch at the door of my lips !

4. Do not turn my heart to things that are wrong, * to evil deeds with men who are sinners.

5. Never allow me to share in their feasting, * If a good man strikes or reproves me it is kindness ;

6. but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head. * Let my prayer be ever against their malice.

7. Their princes were thrown down by the side of the rock: * then they understood that my words were kind.

8. As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground, * so their bones were strewn at the mouth of the grave.

9. To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned: * in you I take refuge; spare my soul !

10. From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe : * keep me from the snares of those who do evil.

11. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit:

12. as it was in the beginning, is now, * and will be for ever. Amen.

The antiphon is repeated.
Canticle of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  

Luke 1: 46-55

The cantor begins and alternates verses with the congregation:

A

2 Ant. VI F

K

Now that the Lord is coming and with him all his saints; * that day will come with a wonderful light, alleluia.

B

2 Ant. VI F

K

Now that the Lord is coming * and with him all his saints; that day will come with a wonderful light, alleluia.

Cantor:               All:

At Magnif. Ant. VIII G

S

EE the Lord * coming from afar; his splendor fills the earth.

Cantor:               All:

At Magnif. Ant. VIII G

M

Y soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, * and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

2. for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. * From this day all generations will call me blessed:

3. the Al-might-y has done great things for me, * and holy is his Name.
May the God of peace make you perfect in holiness. May he preserve you whole and entire, spirit, soul, and body, irreproachable at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls us is trustworthy, therefore he will do it.

Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

May the God of peace make you perfect in holiness. May he preserve you whole and entire, spirit, soul, and body, irreproachable at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls us is trustworthy, therefore he will do it.

Homily

Cantor: Responsory

1. With all my heart I cry to the Lord, *
with all my voice I entreat the Lord.
2. I pour out my trouble before him; *
I tell him all my distress.
3. while my spirit faints within me. *
But you, O Lord, know my path.
4. On the way where I shall walk *
they have hidden a snare to entrap me.
5. Look on my right and see: *
there is not one who takes my part.
6. I have no means of escape, *
not one who cares for my soul.
7. I cry to you, O Lord. /
I have said: “You are my refuge, *
all I have left in the land of the living.”
8. Listen then to my cry *
for I am in the depths of distress.
9. Rescue me from those who pursue me *
for they are stronger than I.
10. Bring my soul out of this prison *
and then I shall praise your name.
11. Around me the just will assemble *
because of your goodness to me.
12. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit: 
13. as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be forever. Amen.

The antiphon is repeated.
HE Lord will come with might-y pow- er; * all mor-tal eyes shall see him.

The cantor begins and alternates verses with the congregation:

Canticle Philippians 2:6-11

1. Though he was in the form of God, / Jesus did not deem equality with God * something to be grasped at.
2. Rather, he emptied himself / and took the form of a slave, * being born in the likeness of men.
3. He was known to be of human estate, * and it was thus that he humbled himself,
4. obediently accepting even death, * death on a cross!
5. Because of this God highly exalted him * and bestowed on him the name above every other name,
6. So that at Jesus’ name every knee must bend * in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth,
7. and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God the Father: * Jesus Christ is Lord!
8. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit:
9. as it was in the beginning, is now, * and will be forever. Amen.

The antiphon is repeated.