THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: MASS AT MIDNIGHT

‘Proper’ of the Mass

Set to Gregorian Tones
With Organ Accompaniment

by

Samuel F. Weber, O.S.B.

2005
Acknowledgements


Harmonizations of Latin Psalm tones adapted by the editor from the settings of Carlo Rossini in his classic work *‘Proper’ of the Mass for the Entire Liturgical Year*, 1933 ff., and from the various harmonizations of Achille Bragers.

English tones and harmonizations by Samuel F. Weber, O.S.B.

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THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD :
MASS AT MIDNIGHT

Tone 6

INTROIT

1. The Lord said to me : / You are my Son ; *  
   this day have I begotten you.  
2. Why this tumult among nations, *  
   among peoples this useless murmuring ?  
3. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, *  
   and to the Holy Spirit.  
4. As it was in the beginning, /  
   is now and ever shall be, *  
   world without end. Amen.  

Repetition of the Introit Antiphon : *

The Lord said to me : | you are my Son ; |  
this day have I begotten you.

Or : INTROIT

1. Let us rejoice in the Lord, / for our Savior is born to the world *  
   True peace has descended from heaven.  
2. Justice shall flower in his days, *  
   and profound peace, / till the moon be no more.(R)  
3. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, *  
   and to the Holy Spirit.  
4. As it was in the beginning, / is now and ever shall be, *  
   world without end. Amen.  

Repetition of the Introit Antiphon : *

Let us rejoice in the Lord, | for our Savior is born to the world. |  
True peace has descended from | heaven.

OFFERTORY

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice  
before the Lord / for he comes.

COMMUNION

The Word of God became man ; *  
we have seen his glory.

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Modal Psalm Tone. Mode 5

INTROIT

1. The Lord said to me: / You are my Son; * this day have I begotten you.
2. Why this tumult among nations, * among peoples this useless murmuring?
3. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit.
4. As it was in the beginning, / is now and ever shall be, * world without end. Amen.

Or: INTROIT

1. Let us rejoice in the Lord, / for our Savior is born to the world. * True peace has descended from heaven.
2. Justice shall flower in his days, * and profound peace, / till the moon be no more. (R)
3. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit.
4. As it was in the beginning, / is now and ever shall be, * world without end. Amen.

B 5. The Lord said to me: / You are my Son; * this day have I begotten you.

OFFERTORY

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice before the Lord / for he comes.

COMMUNION

The Word of God became man; * we have seen his glory.

NOTE

The modal psalm tone may be sung in unison with organ accompaniment, or SATB a cappella

POINTING:

1. One final accent: **bold type**
2. One or two preparatory syllables: *italic type*
3. Change of harmony in the middle of the recitation: *underlined syllable*

Change of harmony affects only the organ accompaniment or the ATB parts.
Change of harmony does not affect the melody line.
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INTROIT: Option 1

2. The Lord said to me: * You are my Son; this day have I be-got-ten you.

INTROIT: VERSE

2. Why this tu-mult a-mong na-tions, * a-mong peo-ple this use-less mur-mur-ing?

INTROIT: GLORIA PATRI

Glo-ry be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it. * As it was in the

beginning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A- men.

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INTROIT: VERSE

2. Why this tumult among nations, * among peoples this use-less mur-muring?

INTROIT. VERSE: SATB

Serve the Lord with fear / and trembling, 
and pay him homage. 
Blessed are they who put their trust in God.

INTROIT. GLORIA PATRI: SATB

2. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, / is now, and even shall be, world without end. Amen.
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INTROIT: VERSE

2. Why this tumult among nations, * among peoples this useless murmuring?

INTROIT. VERSE: SSA or TTB

Serve the Lord with fear and trembling, pay him homage. Blessed are they who put their trust in God.

Based on a tone by Carlo Rossini

INTROIT. GLORIA PATRI: SSA or TTB

2. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, / is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
INTROIT : Option 2

1. O Lord, with your judgment endow the King, and with your justice the King's son.
   He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment. (R)

2. The mountains shall yield peace for the people, and the hills justice.
   He shall defend the afflicted among the people, save the children of the poor. (R)

3. May he endure as long as the sun, and like the moon through all generations.
   Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. (R)

4. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
   As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. (R)

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CHANT VERSES
Psalm 71

6. O Lord, with your justice endow the king, and with your justice endow the king’s son, * he shall govern your people with justice

GLORIA PATRI

6. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. * As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
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Responsorial Psalm : Option 1

Hodie natus est nobis. 

Luke 2 : 11

1. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Verse 1. Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all you lands. Sing to the Lord; bless his name. (R)

Verse 2. Announce his salvation, day after day. Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds. (R)

Verse 3. Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and what fills it resound; let the plains be joyful and all that is in them! Then shall all the trees of the forest exult. (R)

Verse 4. They shall exult before the Lord, for he comes; for he comes to rule the earth. He shall rule the world with justice and the peoples with his constancy. (R)
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Responsorial Psalm: Option 2

Hodie natus est nobis.

Luke 2:11

5. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

1. Sing to the Lord a new song; 
sing to the Lord, all you lands.
Sing to the Lord; bless his name. (R)

2. Announce his salvation, day after day. 
Tell his glory among the nations; 
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds. (R)

3. Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; 
let the sea and what fills it resound; 
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them! 
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult. (R)

4. They shall exult before the Lord, for he comes; 
for he comes to rule the earth. 
He shall rule the world with justice 
and the peoples with his constancy. (R)
Years ABC : Verse

_Evangelizo vobis._  _Luke 2 : 1-14_

I proclaim to you good news of _great joy_; *
today a Savior is born for us; / _Christ the Lord._
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8. Alleluia, alleluia.

I proclaim to you good news of great joy; *
today a Savior is born for us; / Christ the Lord.

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OFFERTORY

5. Let the heavens be glad * and the earth rejoice ** before the Lord for he comes.

VERSE 1

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all you lands. ** Before.

VERSE 2

Sing to the Lord; bless his Name; announce his salvation day after day. ** Before.
Communion

7. The Word of God became man; we have seen his glory.

Verbum caro factum est.                                                                                                                  John 1 : 14

1. Give to the Lord, you families of nations, *
give to the Lord glory and praise; 
bring gifts and enter his courts; *
worship the Lord in holy attire. (R)

2. Tremble before him, all the earth; *
say among the nations: / The Lord is king,
He has made the world firm, / not to be moved; *
He governs the peoples with equity. (R)

3. Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; *
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult before the Lord,
for he comes to rule the earth. (R)

PSALM VERSES. Psalm 95
(unison, with organ or SATB a cappella)

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A NOTE ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE INTROIT

The settings given here are arranged for Prince of Peace Church, where they are performed thus:

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

1. The bell rings. All stand.
2. Celebrant and ministers begin the procession.
3. The choir sings the Introit Antiphon, Psalm Verse, *Gloria Patri*, and repeats the Introit Antiphon *recto tono*.

INCENSATION OF THE ALTAR AND CRUCIFIX

4. The choir is concluding the Introit as the celebrant and ministers reach the altar. They reverence. The celebrant begins to fill the thurible with incense.
5. The organ intones the chorale melody for the metrical hymn, playing the whole melody through once.
6. Choir and congregation sing the metrical Psalm as the celebrant is incensing the altar and crucifix.
   a. The whole Psalm may be sung in unison by all.
   b. The choir may alternate with the congregation, singing the even number verses in unison, or in four part harmony, *a capella*. This is indicated in the program.
   c. The organist may provide organ interludes. Festive instruments may be used on greater feasts. Varied hymn accompaniments are encouraged from verse to verse.

AT THE CHAIR

7. The celebrant concludes the incensation, and takes his place at the chair. The metrical Psalm concludes.
   a. The singing of the metrical Psalm is timed so as to conclude with the arrival of the celebrant at the chair.
   b. Some verses of the metrical Psalm may be omitted if they are not needed. The final verse, the Doxology, is always included and never omitted.
   c. The Introit covers the action of the entrance of celebrant and ministers and the incensation of the altar. The singing should not be unduly prolonged at this point, although it may continue a bit if necessary.

PSALM VERSES

8. Psalm verses are provided for other communities if they choose not to use the metrical Psalm version. As indicated, the Introit Antiphon is repeated after the verses.

ADAPTATION

9. Prince of Peace is a large church in the romanesque style that allows for an extended entrance rite. Smaller churches and communities will adapt this plan to suit their particular needs.