

Second Reading

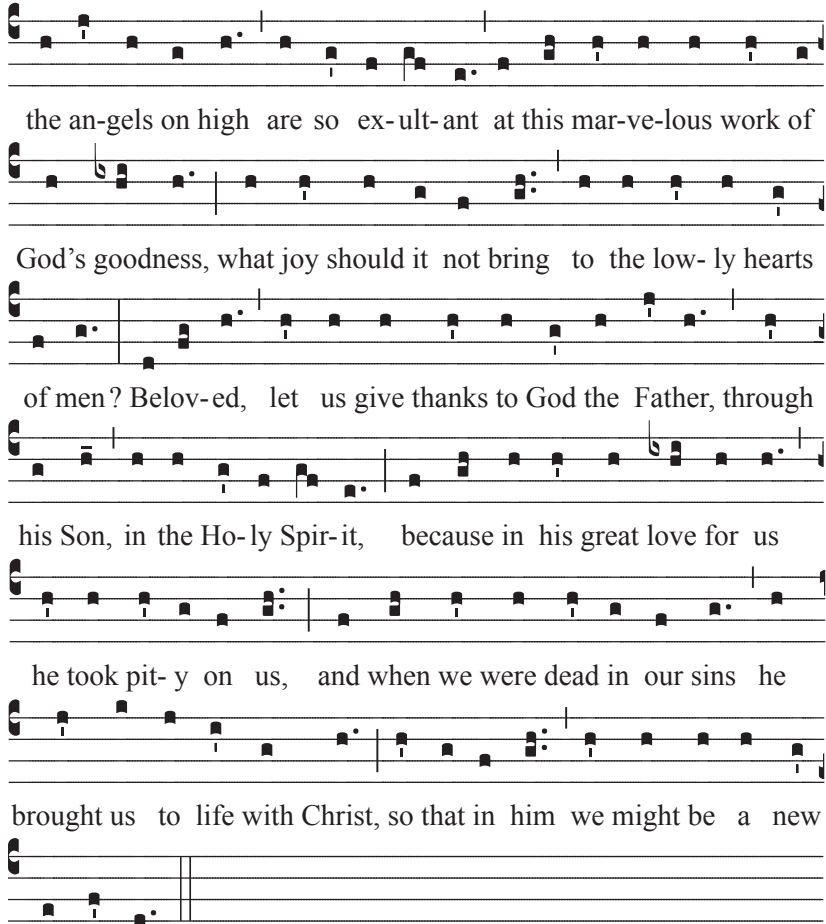
F Rom a Ser-mon by Saint Le- o the Great, Pope.

Dear-ly be-lov-ed, to-day our Sav-ior is born let us re-joyce.

Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The
fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with
the promise of e-ter-nal hap-pi-ness. No one is shut out from
this joy; all share the same rea-son for re-joic-ing. Our Lord,
vic-tor o-ver sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came
to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of
vic-to-ry at hand. Let the sin-ner be glad as he re-ceives

the of-fer of for-give-ness. Let the pa-gan take cour-age as
he is summoned to life. In the fullness of time, chos-en in
the un-fath-om-a-ble depths of God's wis-dom, the Son of God
took for him-self our common hu-man-i-ty in or-der to re-con-
cile with its cre-a-tor. He came to o-verthrow the dev-il, the
o-ri-gin of death, in that ver-y na-ture by which he had
o-ver-thrown man-kind. And so at the birth of our Lord the
an-gels sing in joy: *Glo-ry to God in the highest*, and they
proclaim *peace to his people on earth* as they see the heav-en-ly
Je-ru-sa-lem be-ing built from all the nations of the world. When

The Nativity of the Lord



the an-gels on high are so ex-ult-ant at this mar-ve-lous work of
 God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the low-ly hearts
 of men? Belov-ed, let us give thanks to God the Father, through
 his Son, in the Ho-ly Spir-it, because in his great love for us
 he took pit-y on us, and when we were dead in our sins he
 brought us to life with Christ, so that in him we might be a new
 cre- a- tion.

Tone for the Second Reading of Christmas Vigils taken from a manuscript of the monastery of Maria Einsiedeln, as given in *Laudes Festivae: Lectionarium et Cantuarium pro Diversitate Temporum et Festum*, edited by P. Beatus Reiser, O.S.B., Typis Polyglottis Vaticanis, 1932. Cantilation of the English text arranged by Fr. Samuel F. Weber, O.S.B., Copyright © 2009 Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN 47577-1010 U.S.A. All rights reserved.

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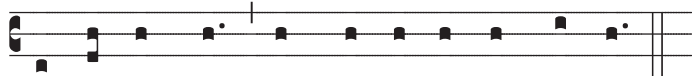
Responsory

SIT

Cantor :

VIII G

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O- day true peace came down to us from heav-en.

Congregation :

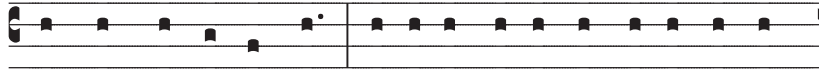


To-day the whole earth was filled with heav-en's sweetness.

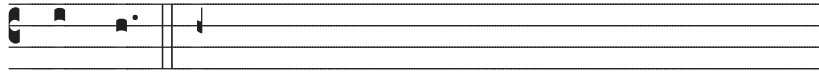
Cantor :



To-day a new day dawns, the day of our redemption, prepared

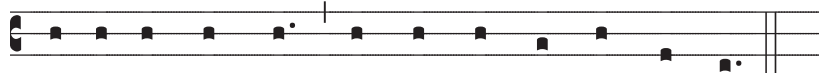


by God from a- ges past, the beginning of our nev-er end-ing



glad-ness.

Congregation :



To-day the whole earth was filled with heav-en's sweetness.