The Nativity of the Lord

\( \text{Lo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly} \)

\( \text{Spir-it: as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be} \)

\( \text{for ev-er. A- men.} \)

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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24 December 2009
O-day, lis-ten to the voice of the Lord: Do not grow stub-

born, as your fathers did in the wild-er-ness, when at Mer-i-

Mas-sah they challenged me and provoked me, although they

had seen all of my works. (R')

OR-ty years I endured that gen-er-a- tion. I said, “They

are a peo-ple whose hearts go a-stray and they do not know

my ways.” So I swore in my an-ger, “They shall not en-

ter
The Nativity of the Lord

Invitatory. IV g

Cantor:

Hrist is born to us: Come, let us adore him.

The Invitatory is repeated by the congregation.

Psalm 94

Verse 1

Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

The Lord who saves us. Let us approach him with praise and thanksgiving and sing joyful songs to the Lord. (R)

Psalm 94

Verse 2

The Lord is God, the mighty God, the great king over all gods. He holds in his hands the depths of the earth and the highest mountains as well. He made the sea; it belongs to him, the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands. (R)

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

AT VIGILS

25 December

Opening Verse

STAND

Celebrant:

Lord, open my lips.

Congregation:

R: And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Invitatory. IV g

Cantor verses p. 26

Cantor:

Hrist is born to us: Come, let us adore him.

Congregation:

Cantor:

Hrist is born to us: Come, let us adore him.

Psalm 94

Come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us. Let us approach him with praise and thanksgiving and sing joyful songs to the Lord.
The Nativity of the Lord

Congregation:

Hrist is born to us: Come, let us adore him.

Cantor:

The Lord is God, the mighty God, the great king over all the gods. He holds in his hands the depths of the earth and the highest mountains as well. He made the sea; it belongs to him, the dry land, too, for it was formed by his hands.

Congregation:

Hrist is born to us: Come, let us adore him.

Cantor:

Come, then, let us bow down and worship, bending the knee before the Lord, our maker. For he is our God and we are his people, the flock he shepherds.

Congregation:

Hrist is born to us: Come, let us adore him.

Cantor:

Today, listen to the voice of the Lord: Do not grow stubborn, as your fathers did in the wilderness, when at Meriba and Massah they challenged me and provoked me, although they had seen all of my works.

At Vigils

Prayer

God our Father, every year we rejoice as we look forward to this feast of our salvation. * May we welcome Christ as our Redeemer, and meet him with confidence when he comes to be our judge, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, * one God, for ever and ever. R: Amen.

After the clergy retire to the sacristy and vest, Midnight Mass will commence with a hymn led by the choir.
The Nativity of the Lord

For verse 5 below, the cantor begins Christ, to thee with God the Father, and the congregation continues And, O Holy Ghost, to thee.

4. O ye heights of heav’n a-dore him; Angel hosts, his praises sing; Powers, dominions, bow before him, And exalt our God and King: Let no tongue

5. Christ, to thee with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to thee, Hymn and chant and high thanks-giving, And governing, And unwearied praises be, Honor, glory, Ev’ry voice in concert, And eternal victory, Ev’ry ring, Ev’ry more and ev’ry more. Amen.

Cantor:

Forty years I endured that generation.
I said, “They are a people whose hearts go astray and they do not know my ways.”
So I swore in my anger,
“They shall not enter into my rest.”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Cantor:

Christ is born to us: Come, let us adore him.
The Nativity of the Lord

Hymn. 1
Candor æternæ Deiatis alme

1. E-ter- nal glo- ry and true Light, Christ Je-
2. The choirs of an- gels sing to earth A mes-
3. O ten- der Babe, who rule the world, Born of
4. You came to o- pen heav- en’s gate, As one
5. U- niting with the an- gels’ hymn, In joy

1. sus, born in- to our world, You come to heal
2. sage nev- er heard be- fore: All glo- ry be
3. the sin- less Vir- gin pure, May you in- deed
4. of us and tru- ly Man, Re- new and draw
5. we gath- er here to raise, To Fa- ther, Son

1. the wounds of men, Sal- va- tion’s gate and life
2. to God on high, And to our race be peace
3. win ev’ry heart, Most wor- thy of our ar-
4. our hearts to you And bind them fast with bonds
5. and Spir- it blest, Our lov- ing hymns of thanks

1. for all.
2. and joy.
3. dent love.
4. of love.
5. and praise. A- men.

At Vigils

After the Gospel Reading, in place of the Te Deum, this hymn may be sung. The cantor sings the odd numbered verses; the congregation sings the even numbered verses:

Of the Father’s Love Begotten
Corde natus ex Parentis. Mode V

1. Of the Fa- ther’s love be- got- ten Ere the worlds
2. O that birth for ev- er bless- ed! When the Vir-
3. This is he who Sees in old time Chant- ed of

1. be- gan to be, He is Al- pha and O- me-
2. gin, full of grace, By the Ho- ly Ghost con- ceiv-
3. with one ac- cord; Whom the voic- es of the proph-

1. that are, that have been, And that fu- ture years shall
2. the world’s Re- deem- er, First re- vealed his sa- cred
3. the long- ex- pect- ed: Let cre- a- tion praise its

1. see, Ev- er- more and ev- er- more.
2. face, Ev- er- more and ev- er- more.
3. Lord, Ev- er- more and ev- er- more.
The Nativity of the Lord

nstri, Dó-mi-ne, mi-se- ré-re nostri.  Fi-at mise-ri-córdi-a tu-a.

Dómine, su-per nos, quemádmodum spe-rá-vimus in te.  In te,

Dó-mi-ne, spe-rá- vi:  non confún-dar in æ-tér-num.

O Lord, let thy mercy be upon us, as we have hoped in thee. O Lord, in thee have I hoped, let me not be confounded forever.

At Vigils

I Nocturn

Cantor:

1 Ant.

Psalm 2

Cantor: odd numbered verses; congregation: even numbered verses

1. Why this tumult among nations,*
   among peoples this useless murmuring.

2. They arise, the kings of the earth,*
   princes plot against the Lord and his Anointed.

3. “Come, let us break their fetters,*
   come, let us cast off their yoke.”

4. He who sits in the heavens laughs;*
   the Lord is laughing them to scorn.

5. Then he will speak in his anger,*
   his rage will strike them with terror.

6. “It is I who have set up my king*
   on Zion, my holy mountain.”

7. I will announce the decree of the Lord:/
   The Lord said to me, “You are my Son,*
   It is I who have begotten you this day.

8. Ask and I shall bequeath you the nations,*
   put the ends of the earth in your possession.

9. With a rod of iron you will break them,*
   shatter them like a potter’s jar.”
Now, O kings, understand, *
take warning, rulers of the earth,
serve the Lord with awe *
and trembling, pay him your homage
lest he be angry and you perish ; *
for suddenly his anger will blaze.
Blessed are they *
who put their trust in God.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit :
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lord said to me: You are my Son, to-day
I have begotten you.

The Lord comes forth, * the bridegroom from his
bridal chamber.

of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that thou shalt come to be
our Judge. We pray thee, therefore, help thy servants, whom thou hast re-
deemed with thy Precious Blood. Make them to be numbered with thy saints
in glory everlasting. O Lord, save thy people, and bless thine inheritance.
Govern them and lift them up forever. Day by day we bless thee. And we
praise thy Name forever, yea for ever and ever. Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day
to keep us without sin. O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
The Nativity of the Lord

Te per orbem ter-ra-rum sancta con-fi-te-tur Eccle-sia:
Patrem imménsæ ma-jestá-tis: Ve-ne-rándum tu-um ve-rum,
et ú-ni-cum Fi-li-um: Sanctum quoque Pa-rá-cli-tum
Spi-ri-tum. Tu Rex gló-ri-æ, Chri-ste. Tu Patris sempi-tér-nus
es Fi-li-us. Tu ad li-be-rándum susceptú-rus hó-mi-nem.
non horru-i-sti Vir-gi-nis ù-te-rum. Tu devicto mortis a-cú-le-o,
a-pe-ru-i-sti credénti-bus regna cæ-ló-rum. Tu ad déxté-ram De-i

At Vigils

2 Ant. The Lord comes forth, the bridegroom * from his bridal chamber.
Cantor: odd numbered verses; congregation: even numbered verses
Psalm 18 A

1. The heavens proclaim the glory of God * and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.
2. Day unto day takes up the story * and night unto night makes known the message.
3. No speech, no word, no voice is heard / yet their span extends through all the earth, * their words to the utmost bounds of the world.
4. There he has placed a tent for the sun ; / it comes forth like a bridegroom coming from his tent, * rejoices like a champion to run its course.
5. At the end of the sky is the rising of the sun ; / to the furthest end of the sky is its course, * There is nothing concealed from its burning heat.
6. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit :
7. as it was in the beginning, is now, * and will be for ever. Amen.

Cantor:

Antiphon

The Lord comes forth, the bridegroom from his

brid- al cham-ber.

Ant. The Lord comes forth, the bridegroom * from his bridal chamber.
The Nativity of the Lord

3 Ant. 1 f

Y

Our words are filled with grace, * because God has

blessed you for ev-er

3 Ant. Your words are filled with grace, * because God has blessed you for ever.

Cantor: odd numbered verses; congregation: even numbered verses

Psalm 44

1. My heart overflows with noble words. /
   To the king I must speak the song I have made; *
   my tongue as nimble as the pen of a scribe.

2. You are the fairest of the children of men / and graciousness is poured upon your lips; *
   because God has blessed you for evermore.

3. O mighty one, gird your sword upon your thigh; /
   in splendor and state, ride on in triumph *
   for the cause of truth and goodness and right.

4. Take aim with your bow in your dread right hand. /
   Your arrows are sharp; / peoples fall beneath you. *
   The foes of the king fall down and lose heart.

5. Your throne, O God, shall endure for ever. /
   A scepter of justice is the scepter of your kingdom. *
   Your love is for justice; / your hatred for evil.

6. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you /
   with the oil of gladness above other kings; *
   your robes are fragrant with aloes and myrrh.

7. From the ivory palace you are greeted with music. /
   The daughters of kings are among your loved ones. *
   On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

8. Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words: *
   forget your own people and your father’s house.

At Vigils

Te Deum Laudamus

Hymn. III & IV

The celebrant intones to the *. The cantor continues. The congregation sings the parts that are underlined.

E De- um laudá-mus: * te Dómi-num confi-té- mur. Te æ-térnum Patrem omnis terra vene-rá- tur. Ti- bi omnes An
gé- li, ti-bi Cæ-li et u-nivér-sæ Po-testá- tes: Ti-bi Ché-ru
bim et Sé-ra-phim incessá-bi- li vo-ce proclá- mant: Sanctus:
Sanctus: San-ctus Dómi-nus De- us Sá-ba- oth. Ple-ni sunt

Aposto-ló-rum cho- rus: Te Prophe- tá- rum laudá-bi- lis

We praise thee, O God, we acknowledge thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting. To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein. To thee cherubim and seraphim continually do cry: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory. The glorious choir of apostles praises thee. The admirable company of prophets praises thee.
This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.
The Nativity of the Lord

Congregation:

He lived a-mong us, al-le- lu- ia.

8 SIT First Reading

From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 11:1-10

Thus says the Lord God:
A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
A spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord,
and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord.
Not by appearance shall he judge,
nor by hearsay shall he decide,
But he shall judge the poor with justice,
and decide aright for the land’s afflicted.
He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.
Justice shall be the band around his waist,
and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
The calf and the young lion shall browse together,
with a little child to guide them.
The cow and the bear shall be neighbors,
together their young shall rest;
the lion shall eat hay like the ox.
The baby shall play by the cobra’s den,
and the child lay his hand on the adder’s lair.

There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as water covers the sea.

On that day,
The root of Jesse,
set up as a signal for the nations,
The Gentiles shall seek out,
for his dwelling shall be glorious.

At Vigils

9. “All mankind is grass, *
and all their glory like the flower of the field.

10. The grass withers, the flower wilts, / when the breath of the Lord blows upon it. *
So then the people is the grass.

11. Though the grass withers and the flower wilts, *
the word of our God stands forever.”

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 for ever. Amen.

Cantor:

Antiphon

His name will be Em-man- u- el, which means God-is-with- us.

Ant. His name will be Em-manu-el, *
which means God-is-with-us.
The Nativity of the Lord

II Nocturn

Cantor:

Ant.

H

IS name will be * Em-man-u-el, which means God-is-with-us.

At Vigils

Responsory

Cantor:

VIII G

O-day, for our sake, the King of heaven chose to be born of his virgin mother, to reclaim lost men for the heavenly kingdom.

Congregation:

*C All the angels cry aloud with joy, for God has come himself to save mankind.

Cantor:

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

Congregation:

* All the angels cry aloud with joy, for God has come himself to save mankind.

Isaiah 40:1-8

Cantor: odd numbered verses; congregation: even numbered verses

1. Comfort, give comfort to my people, * says your God.
2. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her * that her service is at an end, / her guilt is expiated ;
3. indeed, she has received from the hand of the Lord * double for all her sins.
4. A voice cries out : / In the desert prepare the way of the Lord ! * Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God !
5. Every valley shall be filled in, * every mountain and hill shall be made low ;
6. The rugged land shall be made a plain, * the rough country a broad valley.
7. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, / and all mankind shall see it together ; * for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
8. A voice says, “Cry out !” * I answer, / “What shall I cry out ?”
Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. 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 eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life.

In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God’s wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind.

And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: *Glory to God in the highest,* and they proclaim *peace to his people on earth* as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvelous work of God’s goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men?

Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity 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 creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God’s own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God’s kingdom.

Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ.