

The Third Liturgy in the Morning

The Introit *Isaiah 9, cf Psalm 98:1 Cantate Domino*

Tone III



Ant: 6a A child has been born for us, a son given to us; *
authority rests upon his shoulders;

6b And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, *
Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done mar-velous things.

[4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to
the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the
victory of our God.

5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.

9b Let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

11 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equi-ty.]

Gloria Patri.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son □, and to the Holy Spirit, *
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever,
for all ages of ages. Amen

Antiphon

The Collect

Almighty God, who has given us your only begotten Son to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure Virgin: grant that we being born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with you and that same Holy Spirit, God, for all ages of ages. *Amen*

Old Testament: **Isaiah 9:2-7**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Gradual **Psalm 98**

Tone Va



4b All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. *

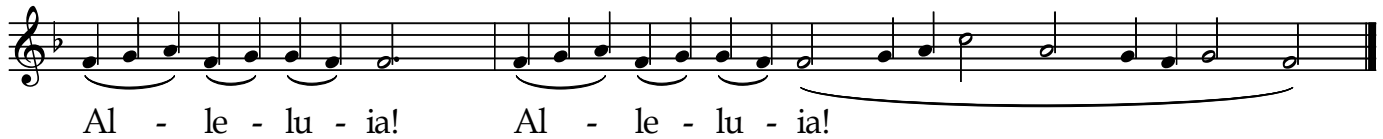
5a Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;

3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in
the sight of the nations

The Epistle: Hebrews 12: 1-12

Beloved: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

The Alleluia:



A holy day has dawned for us; *

Come you peoples and worship the Lord:

for this day a great light has descended upon the earth.

The Gospel: **John 1:1-14**

The beginning of the Holy Gospel according to John: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. [There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.] The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

[**Genuflect**] And the Word became flesh and lived among us,

[**Arise**] and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Offertory: *Misericordias Domini* Psalm 89: 11, 14, 15 Tone III



Yours are the heavens; the earth also is yours; *
you laid the foundations of the world and all that is in it.

Righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne; *
love and truth go before your face.

Happy are the people who know the fes-tal shout! *
they walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.

The Prayer over the Gifts:

Sanctify, O Lord, the gifts which we offer by the new birth of your only-begotten Son; and cleanse us of the stains of our sins, through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for all ages of ages. *Amen*

The Preface of the Nativity

Because by the mystery of the Word made flesh,
the light of your glory has shone upon the eyes of our mind;
so that, while we acknowledge him to be God in visible form,
he may draw us to the love of things invisible.

Christmas Day

Priest: May Almighty God, Who has made this day to be most sacred through the birth of His only Son, set His blessing upon you, and stir up within you a desire for Heavenly things.

People: Amen

Priest: May He, Who made the Bread of Angels [cradled in the manger of the faithful beasts], to become the Food of the Church, cause you to taste in this present life the sweetness of eternal joys, and lead you, in the world to come, to the fullness of your everlasting reward.

People: Amen

Priest: May He, Who willed the infant Christ to be clothed with the swaddling-bands of humility, clothe you Himself with the glorious garments of eternity.

People: Amen

Priest: May the Lord God Almighty, Whose glorious Kingdom endures for ever, be pleased to bestow these blessings upon you; and...

Priest: The ✠ Peace of The Lord be always with you.

People: And with your spirit.

The Communion: *Cantate Domino, Psalm 98: 4b*

Tone V



All the ends of the earth have seen *
the salvation of our God.

The Postcommunion:

Almighty God, grant that as he who was born this day the Savior of the world is the author of our heavenly birth; so may he also bestow on us the gift of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for all ages of ages. *Amen*