Evening Prayer

Wednesday, December 31, 2003

Saint Sylvester I, Pope

OPENING

O God, come to my assistance.

Lord, make haste to help me.

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

HYMN

Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin mother and child,
holy infant, so tender and mild;
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Psalm 27 *Confidence in God*

> *Ant. Today Christ is born for us; glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.*

To you, O Lord, I will cry out; O my God, do not be silent before me. Lest you be silent before me, and I become like those who descend into the pit.

Hear, O Lord, the voice of my supplication, as I pray to you, as I lift up my hands toward your holy temple.

Do not draw me away together with sinners and with those who work iniquity; who speak peace with their neighbors, but evils are in their hearts.

Give them according to their works and according to the wickedness of their inventions.

According to the works of their hands, give to them; repay them what they deserve.

For they have not understood the works of the Lord and the works of his hands.

You will destroy them and will not build them up.

Blessed is the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication.

The Lord is my helper and my protector; in him my heart has hoped, and I have been helped.

And my flesh has flourished again; and with my will I will confess to him.

The Lord is the strength of his people and the protector of the salvation of his Christ.

Save your people, O Lord, and bless your inheritance, and govern them and exalt them forever.

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

> *Ant. Today Christ is born for us; glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.*

Psalm 28 *The Voice of the Lord*

> *Ant. Today Christ is born for us; glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.*

Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord the offspring of rams; bring to the Lord glory and honor.

Bring to the Lord glory for his name; adore the Lord in his holy court.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of majesty has thundered.

The Lord is over many waters.

The voice of the Lord is in power; the voice of the Lord is in magnificence.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; indeed, the Lord will break the cedars of Lebanon.

And he will reduce them to small pieces, like a calf of Lebanon, and the beloved one will be like the son of the rhinoceros.

The voice of the Lord divides the flame of fire.

The voice of the Lord shakes the desert; and the Lord will shake the desert of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord prepares the stags and will reveal the dense forests; and in his temple all will speak his glory.

The Lord causes the flood to dwell; and the Lord will sit as king in eternity.

The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.

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

> *Ant. Today Christ is born for us; glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.*

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE (COLOSSIANS 1:12–20)

Giving thanks to God the Father, who has made us worthy to be partakers of the lot of the saints in the light.

He has rescued us from the power of darkness, and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of his love,

in whom we have redemption through his blood, the remission of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.

For in him all things were created in the heavens and on earth, the visible and the invisible.

Whether thrones or dominations or principalities or powers, all things were created through him and in him.

And he exists before all others, and all things continue in him.

And he himself is the head of the body, the Church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,

so that he may hold the primacy in all things.

For it has pleased the Father that all fullness would dwell in him,

and that through him all things would be reconciled to himself, making peace through the blood of his cross, both as to the things on earth and the things in heaven.

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

SHORT READING

1 JOHN 1:2

> The life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us.

RESPONSORY

V. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.

R. For today a great light has descended upon the earth. Alleluia.

V. Sing to the Lord a new song,

R. for he has done marvelous things. Alleluia.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: MAGNIFICAT (LUKE 1:46-55)

THE CANTICLE OF MARY (MAGNIFICAT) (LUKE 1:46–55)

> *Ant. Holy Mother of God, ever-virgin Mary, who have given birth to the King of kings, intercede for us.*

My soul magnifies the Lord.

And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

Because he has regarded the humility of his handmaid; for behold, from henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

Because he who is powerful has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

And his mercy is from generation to generation for those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.

He has deposed the powerful from their seat, and he has exalted the humble.

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

He has received Israel, his servant, being mindful of his mercy.

As he spoke to our fathers: to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

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

> *Ant. Holy Mother of God, ever-virgin Mary, who have given birth to the King of kings, intercede for us.*

EVENING INTERCESSIONS

As evening falls during this Christmas season, let us pray in the name of the one who was born for us, saying:

For peace in our world, that the peace proclaimed at Bethlehem may become a reality among nations: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Glory to God in the highest.*

For those who are isolated or forgotten at this time of year, that they may know they are not alone: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Glory to God in the highest.*
For children, that this season may be one of wonder, security, and love for them: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Glory to God in the highest.*
For all who mourn, especially those who have lost a loved one since last Christmas, that hope may comfort them: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Glory to God in the highest.*
For our bishop and all who lead our church, that they may reflect the light of Christ in their ministry: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Glory to God in the highest.*
For those who have died, that they may share in the eternal Christmas of heaven: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Glory to God in the highest.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as the Lord himself has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Loving God, on this Christmas night the angels sang their praises. Accept our evening song of thanks for the gift of your Son and keep us ever grateful for your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless us: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MARIAN ANTIPHON

ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

Loving Mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, assist your people who have fallen, yet strive to rise again. To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before. You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.