Evening Prayer

Saturday, January 7, 2006

Saint Raymond of Penafort, Priest

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 128 *They Have Often Afflicted Me*

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

Often they have fought against me from my youth; let Israel now say.

Often they have fought against me from my youth; but they could not prevail over me.

Upon my back, sinners have constructed; they have prolonged their iniquity.

The Lord is just; he will cut asunder the neck of sinners.

Let them all be confounded and turned back, who hate Zion.

Let them become like the grass on the rooftops, which withers before it is pulled up.

Of which the reaper does not fill his hand, nor he who gathers the sheaves his bosom.

And let those who pass by not say: "The blessing of the Lord be upon you; we have blessed you in the name of the Lord."

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 129 *Out of the Depths I Cry*

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

From the depths I have cried out to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If you, Lord, observe iniquities, Lord, who will endure it?

For with you there is forgiveness, and because of your law I have waited for you, O Lord.

My soul has patiently waited on his word; my soul has hoped in the Lord.

From the morning watch, even until night, let Israel hope in the Lord.

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with him there is plentiful redemption.

And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

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 (1 PETER 1:3–9)

Blessed is God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy has regenerated us into a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Into an inheritance that is incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, reserved in heaven for you.

You are guarded in the virtue of God through faith, unto salvation, which is ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you will exult, even though now for a little while it is necessary for you to be made sorrowful by diverse trials.

So that the testing of your faith, much more precious than gold which is tested through fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Him you love without having seen him; in him you believe though you do not see him; and believing, you will rejoice with an inexpressible and glorious joy.

Attaining the end of your faith: the salvation of souls.

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 TIMOTHY 3:16

> Undeniably great is the mystery of devotion, who was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed to the Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.

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

O God, who gave us your only Son, in whom every gift is given: fill us with gratitude for your generosity, and make us generous in turn to all in need; through the same 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.