

Christmas Evening Prayer

Reflection:

“Like the shepherds, let us also rejoice at being the children of the family of Minors, and the poor of the Gospel, and be glad because we, too, are the Missionaries of the Infant Jesus. Let us hasten and go to Him, and after this beautiful feast, return to our everyday duties, truly transformed and desirous of imitating the Incarnate Word.

When we gaze upon this God, Whom love has stripped of everything, dare we preserve any attachment? Let us open our hearts to the Emmanuel, and let our love, generous in imitation of His, overcome our pride, and make us ready to leave everything, to abandon ourselves entirely to Him. “

MD 56 – Blessed Mary of the Passion

Hymn: Gift of God (from CD *Gift of God*, Marty Haugen)

Gift of God, O Emmanuel,

Word of mercy, word of justice:
Gift of God, O Emmanuel,
Word of prophets, word of poets:
Gift of God, O Emmanuel,
Holy Word of God made flesh:
Gift of God, O Emmanuel,

In the stillness of nightfall:
In the stillness of each heartbeat:
In the silence, you are here.

To a world of strife and conflict:
To a world of fears and hatred:
Comes the gentle Prince of Peace:

Let the stars of nighttime praise you:
Let the holy darkness praise you:
Let creation join in song:

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.
Gift of God, O Emmanuel.

Psalm 110 (from *Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill)

Ant. You have been endowed from your birth with princely gifts; in eternal
splendor, before the dawn of light on earth, I have begotten you.

The Beloved says to all who will hear,
“Come, walk with Me. Let us give birth to a new Earth!”

For, the Spirit is the One who makes all things new, and ever awaits our
“yes” to the Dance!

Those who offer themselves freely, without reserve, are guided through
life’s rough paths.

Light beckons to light; divine dignity adorns all in holy array.

The Promise holds true forever, to all generations!

“As companions of the Most High, come! Claim your home in the Universal
Heart!”

You, O Divine Breath, dwell within our hearts; with unconditional Love,
You assuage our fears.

You call us to holiness, to justice, and integrity, to free those bound by
oppression,

to bring light where ignorance and darkness dwell.

Come! Drink from the streams of Living Water.

Come! Feast on the Bread of Life.

Psalm 15 (from Office of the Passion of Francis of Assisi)

Ant. With the Lord is unfailing love: great is his power to save.

Sing for joy to God our help; with exultant voice raise to the Lord God living
and true a shout of joy.

Because the Lord is the Most High, the awesome, great king over all the
earth.

For the most holy Father of heaven, our King before all ages, sent from on
high the beloved Son who was born of the Blessed Virgin, Holy Mary.

He called out to God: You are my Father, and God placed him as the firstborn, the highest above all earthly kings.

*

On the day the Lord sent mercy and song in the night.
This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.
For to us is given the beloved child most holy, born for us along the way and placed in a manger because there was no room for him at the inn.
Glory to the Lord God in the highest and on earth peace to those of good will.

*

Let heavens rejoice and earth exult, let the sea and all that is in it roar, let fields and everything in them sing for joy
Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!
For the Lord is great and highly to be praised, more awesome than all gods.
Bring to the Lord, families of nations, bring to the Lord glory and honor, bring to the Lord the glory due his name.

*

Cast off the weight of sin and take up the Lord's holy cross, follow the Lord's most holy commands to the very end.

Reading: 1 John 1:1-3

What was from the beginning,
what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we looked upon
and touched with our hands
concerns the Word of life
for 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
what we have seen and heard
we proclaim now to you,
so that you too may have fellowship with us;
for our fellowship is with the Father
and with his Son, Jesus Christ.



Responsory:

The Word was made man, alleluia, alleluia.

- The Word was made man, alleluia, alleluia.

He lived among us,

- alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father...

- The Word was made man, alleluia, alleluia.

Canticle of Mary:

Ant. Christ the Lord is born today; today, the Savior has appeared. Earth echoes songs of angel choirs, archangels' joyful praise. Today on earth his friends exult: Glory to God in the highest, alleluia.

Magnificat (from *There's Room For Us* by Lori True)

Refrain: Magnificat, Magnificat , anima mea Dominum.(2x)

I sing with all my heart, my spirit leaps for joy. Who am I that you should honor me? By your saving grace, all will call me blest, and proclaim the greatness of your name.

Refrain

How great your gifts to us, how wonderful your works!
With your power you strengthen all the weak. Your mercy will endure, steadfast is your love. All the faithful follow and believe.

Refrain

You scatter all the proud, the rich you send away. All the mighty vanish in your sight. You fill each hungry heart, raising up the least. You are hope for all who are in need.

Refrain

You rescue all the poor, your servant Israel, you preserve the promise long fore-told. You keep your saving word; faithful is your name. Every generation sings your praise!

Refrain

Intercessions: (from *Living with Christ Christmas 2011*)

For the whole People of God, whose faithful witness brings Jesus into the world each day, we pray to the Lord.

For the land where Jesus was born and lived; for the reconciliation and mutual respect of the people living there, we pray to the Lord.

For all whose joy this Christmas is diminished by suffering in mind and body, we pray to the Lord.

For ourselves, celebrating the joy of Christmas; and for those around us who, on this very night and day of Christmas, are lonely, we pray to the Lord.

Concluding prayer:

God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given away to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word, that we may bring your life to the waiting world. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Marian Prayer: Mary Did You Know (from *Mary, Did You Know?* by the Daughters of St. Paul Choir)

Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know
that your Baby Boy has come to make you new?
This Child that you delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy will calm the storm with His hand?
Did you know
that your Baby Boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little Baby you kissed the face of God?

Mary did you know.

The blind will see.
The deaf will hear.
The dead will live again.
The lame will leap.
The dumb will speak
The praises of The Lamb.

Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know
that your Baby Boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?
The sleeping Child you're holding is the Great, I Am.

Merry 
 *Christmas*