

# Christmas Vigil

## Office of Readings



*All stand and make the sign of the cross.*

Presider: God, come to my assistance.  
People: Lord, make haste to help me.  
Presider: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
People: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

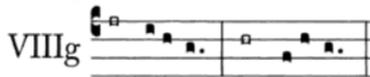
HYMN “What Child is This?” WORSHIP #411

*Please sit*

## PSALMODY

*Antiphon 1*

Psalmist: The Lord said to me: *You are my Son*, \* today I *have begotten you.*



*Psalm 2*

Psalmist: Why this tumult *among* the nations,\*  
among peoples this *useless* murmuring?  
They arise, the kings *of* the earth,\*  
princes plot against the Lord and *his* Anointed.  
“Come let us *break* their fetters,\*  
come, let us cast *off* their yoke.”

People: He who sits in the *heavens* laughs;\*  
the Lord is laughing *them* to scorn.  
Then he will speak *in* his anger,\*



Psalm 19A

Psalmist: The heavens proclaim the glory of *God*\*  
and the firmament shows forth the work of his  
hands.  
Day unto day takes up the *story*\*  
and night unto night makes *known* the message.

People: 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.

Psalmist: 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.

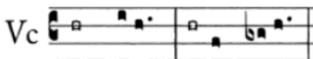
People: At the end of the sky is the rising of the *sun*;\*  
to the furthest end of the sky is its course.†  
There is nothing concealed from its *burning*  
heat.

All: 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.

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

Antiphon 3

Psalmist: Your words are filled *with grace*,\* because God  
has blessed *you* for ever.



*Psalm 45*

- Psalmist: 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.
- People: You are the fairest of the children of men†  
and graciousness is poured upon *your* lips:\*  
because God has blessed you for *evermore*.
- Psalmist: 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.
- People: 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.
- Psalmist: 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.
- People: Therefore God, your God, has anointed you†  
with the oil of gladness above *other* kings:\*  
your robes are fragrant with *aloes* and myrrh.

Psalmist: 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.

People: Listen, O daughter, give ear to *my* words:\*  
forget your own people and your *father's* house.  
So will the king desire *your* beauty:\*  
he is your lord, pay *homage* to him.

Psalmist: And the people of Tyre shall come *with* gifts,\*  
the richest of the people shall *seek* your favor.  
The daughter of the king is clothed *with*  
splendor,\*  
her robes embroidered with pearls *set* in gold.

People: She is led to the king with her maiden  
companions.†  
They are escorted amid gladness *and* joy,\*  
they pass within the palace *of* the king.

Psalmist: Sons shall be yours in place of *your* fathers:\*  
you will make them princes over *all* the earth.  
May this song make your name for ever  
remembered.\*  
May the peoples praise you from *age* to age.

All: 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.

All: Your words are filled *with* grace,\* because God  
has blessed *you* for ever.

## VERSE

Presider: The Word was made man, alleluia.  
People: He lived among us, alleluia.

## READINGS

### *First reading*

Reader: From the book of the prophet Isaiah

*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 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 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.

*Responsory*

Reader: Today, for our sake, the King of heaven chose  
to be born of his virgin mother, to reclaim lost  
men for the heavenly kingdom.

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

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his  
people on earth.

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

## Second reading

Reader: From a sermon by Saint Leo the Great, pope

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 men of good will* 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.

*Responsory*

Reader: Today true peace came down to us from heaven.

People: Today the whole earth was filled with heaven's sweetness.

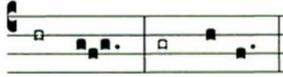
Reader: Today a new day dawns, the day of our redemption, prepared by God from ages past, the beginning of our never ending gladness.

People: Today the whole earth was filled with heaven's sweetness.



# CANTICLE

Cantor: His name will *be* Emmanuel,\* which means God-is-with-us.



*Isaiah 66:10-14a*

All: Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her, all  
*you* who love her;\*  
exult, exult with her, all you who were mourning over  
her!

Oh, that you may suck fully of the milk of her  
comfort,\*

that you may nurse with delight at her abundant  
breasts!

For thus says the Lord: †

Lo, I will spread prosperity over her *like* a river,\*  
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing  
torrent.

As nurslings, you shall be carried *in* her arms,\*  
and fondled in *her* lap;  
as a mother comforts her son, so will I *comfort*  
you;\*

in Jerusalem you shall find *your* comfort.

When you see this, your *heart* shall rejoice,\*  
and your bodies flourish like *the* grass.

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.

All: His name will *be* Emmanuel,\* which means God-is-with-us.

# GOSPEL

*All Stand*

*Matthew 1:1-25 (or 18-15)*

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ,  
the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham became the father of Isaac,  
Isaac the father of Jacob,  
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.  
Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah,  
whose mother was Tamar.  
Perez became the father of Hezron,  
Hezron the father of Ram,  
Ram the father of Amminadab.  
Amminadab became the father of Nahshon,  
Nahshon the father of Salmon,  
Salmon the father of Boaz,  
whose mother was Rahab.  
Boaz became the father of Obed,  
whose mother was Ruth.  
Obed became the father of Jesse,  
Jesse the father of David the king.

David became the father of Solomon,  
whose mother had been the wife of Uriah.  
Solomon became the father of Rehoboam,  
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,  
Abijah the father of Asaph.  
Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat,  
Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,  
Joram the father of Uzziah.  
Uzziah became the father of Jotham,  
Jotham the father of Ahaz,  
Ahaz the father of Hezekiah.  
Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh,  
Manasseh the father of Amos,

Amos the father of Josiah.  
Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers  
at the time of the Babylonian exile.

After the Babylonian exile,  
Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel,  
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,  
Zerubbabel the father of Abiud.  
Abiud became the father of Eliakim,  
Eliakim the father of Azor,  
Azor the father of Zadok.  
Zadok became the father of Achim,  
Achim the father of Eliud,  
Eliud the father of Eleazar.  
Eleazar became the father of Matthan,  
Matthan the father of Jacob,  
Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.  
Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.

Thus the total number of generations  
from Abraham to David  
is fourteen generations;  
from David to the Babylonian exile,  
fourteen generations;  
from the Babylonian exile to the Christ,  
fourteen generations.

*(short form begins here)*

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.



# TE DEUM

*An ancient hymn of praise, attributed to St. Ambrose,  
traditionally sung on occasions of public rejoicing.*

You are God: we praise you;  
You are the Lord: we acclaim you  
You are the eternal Father: All creation worships you.  
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory;  
The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white robed army of martyrs praise you.  
Throughout the world the holy church acclaims you;  
Father, of majesty unbounded,  
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,  
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.  
You, Christ, are the King of Glory,  
the eternal Son of the Father.  
When you become man to set us free,  
you did not spurn the virgin's womb.  
You overcame the sting of death  
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.  
We believe that you will come and be our judge.  
Come then, Lord, and help your people  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

