

The Nativity of the Lord, Jesus Christ December 25

First Vespers

(Psalms from Second Vesper of Sunday I)

- Ant I The King of peace,* whom the whole world longs to see, is here in splendor.
- Ant II The splendor of the King of peace * is beyond that of all the kings of the whole world.
- Ant III When the time came * for Mary to be delivered, she gave birth to her firstborn son.
- Ant IV Lift up your head,* for your redemption is approaching.

Reading

Gal 4:4-5

When the designated time had come, God sent forth his son born of a woman, born under the law, to deliver from the law those who were subjected to it, so that we might receive our status as adopted sons.

Responsory **Today you will know, * that the Lord is coming.**
Today,...
Tomorrow you will see his glory,* that the Lord
is coming. Glory... Today,..

- C/M When the sun has risen in the skies,* you shall see the King of kings coming forth from the father, like a groom from his nuptial chamber.

Vigils

1st Noct

- Ant The Lord said to me,* you are my Son, today I have begotten you.

Psalm 2

The Messiah: King and Conqueror
*The rulers of the earth are gathered together against
your anointed servant Jesus (Acts 4:27).*

Why this tumult among 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.”

He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord is laughing them to scorn.
Then he will speak in his anger,
his rage will strike them with terror.
“It is I who have set up my king
on Zion, my holy mountain.”

(I will announce the decree of the Lord:)

The Lord said to me: “You are my Son.
It is I who have begotten you this day.
Ask and I shall bequeath you the nations,
put the ends of the earth in your possession.
With a rod of iron you will break them,
shatter them like a potter’s jar.”

Now, O Kings, understand,
take warning, rulers of the earth;
serve the Lord with awe
and trembling, pay him your homage
lest he be angry and you perish;
for suddenly his anger will blaze.

Blessed are they who put their trust in God.

Psalm 23

The Lord's coming into the temple

*Christ opened for us the gates of heaven in his assumption of
the flesh (St Irenaeus).*

The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things,
(who has not sworn so as to deceive his neighbor.)

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory.

Psalm 44

The royal nuptials

The groom is here! Come out and greet him (Mt 25:6)

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.

You are the fairest of the children of men
and graciousness is poured upon your lips:
because God has blessed you for evermore.

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.

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.

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.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness above other kings:
your robes are fragrant with aloes and myrrh.

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.

* * *

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.

And the people of Tyre shall come with gifts,
and 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.

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.

* * *

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.

Ant The Lord said to me, "you are my son, today I have begotten you."

V/. The word became flesh, alleluia.

R/. And made his dwelling among us, alleluia.

2nd Noct

Ant In the beginning * and before the ages the Word was God; today he himself is born for us the Savior of the world.

Psalm 96

God's glory in judgement

*This psalm sings of world-wide salvation and the
faith of all nations in Christ (St Athanasius).*

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
the many coastlands be glad.
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;
his throne, justice and right.

A fire prepares his path;
it burns up his foes on every side.
His lightnings light up the world,
the earth trembles at the sight.

The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples his glory.

Let those who serve idols be ashamed,
those who boast of their worthless gods.
All you spirits, worship him.

Zion hears and is glad;
the people of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments, O Lord.

For you indeed are the Lord
most high above all the earth
exalted far above all spirits.

The Lord loves those who hate evil;
he guards the souls of his saints;
he sets them free from the wicked.

Light shines forth for the just
and joy for the upright of heart.
Rejoice, you just, in the Lord;
give glory to his holy name.

Psalm 97

The Lord, victorious in judgment

*This psalm tells of the Lord's first coming and the faith of
all the peoples (St Athanasius).*

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord.

Let the sea and all within it, thunder;
the world, and all its peoples.
Let the rivers clap their hands
and the hills ring out their joy.

At the presence of the Lord: for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the world with justice
and the peoples with fairness.

Psalm 98

Holy is the Lord our God

*When you become like us, O Christ, who are
above the cherubim, you transformed the sinful
world (St Athanasius).*

The Lord is king; the peoples tremble.
He is throned on the cherubim; the earth quakes.
The Lord is great in Zion.

He is supreme over all the peoples.
Let them praise his name, so terrible and great.
he is holy, full of power.

You are a king who loves what is right;
you have established equity, justice and right;
you have established them in Jacob.

Exalt the Lord our God;
bow down before Zion, his footstool.
He the Lord is holy.

Among his priests were Aaron and Moses,
among those who invoked his name was Samuel.
They invoked the Lord and he answered.

To them he spoke in a pillar of cloud.
They did his will; they kept the law,
which he, the Lord, had given.

O Lord our God, you answered them.
For them you were a God who forgives;
yet you punished all their offenses.

Exalt the Lord our God;
bow down before his holy mountain
for the Lord our God is holy.

Ant In the beginning and before the ages the Word was God; today he
himself is born for us the Savior of the world.

V/. In him was life,

R/. And the life was the light of mankind,

Lauds

Invitatory Come to adore Christ now born to us.

Psalm 94

An invitation to praise God

Encourage each other daily while it is still "today" (Heb 3:13).

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

A mighty God is the Lord,
a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his.
To him belongs the sea, for he made it
and the dry land shaped by his hands.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.

For forty years I was wearied of these people
and I said: ‘Their hearts are astray,
these people do not know my ways.’
Then I took an oath in my anger:
‘Never shall they enter my rest.’

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now born to us.

Ant I Tell us, shepherds,* what have you seen? Who has appeared on earth?
We have seen a newborn infant, and a choir of angels praising the Lord.
alleluia, alleluia.

Psalm 92

The grandeur of the creating Lord

*The Lord is king, our God, the Almighty! Let us rejoice and be
glad, and give him glory! (Rv. 19:6-7).*

The Lord is King, with majesty enrobed;
the Lord has robed himself with might,
he has girded himself with power.

The world you made firm, not to be moved;
your throne has stood firm from of old.
From all eternity, O Lord, you are.

The waters have lifted up, O Lord,
the waters have lifted up their voice,
the waters have lifted up their thunder.

Greater than the roar of mighty waters,
more glorious than the surgings of the sea,
the Lord is glorious on high.

Truly your decrees are to be trusted.
Holiness is fitting to your house, O Lord,
until the end of time.

Ant I Tell us, shepherds, what have you seen? Who has appeared on earth?
We have seen a newborn infant, and a choir of angels praising the Lord.
alleluia, alleluia.

Ant II The angel said to the shepherds:* “I proclaim to you a great joy: today the savior of the world is born for you, alleluia.”

Psalm 62

A soul thirsting for God

Whoever has left the darkness of sin, yearns for God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

Those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down to the depths of the earth.
They shall be put into the power of the sword
and left as the prey of the jackals.
But the king shall rejoice in God;
All that swear by him shall be blessed
for the mouth of liars shall be silenced.

Ant II The angel said to the shepherds: “I proclaim to you a great joy: today the savior of the world is born for you, alleluia.”

Ant III There was with the angel * a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: “glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will, alleluia!”

Canticle Dan 3:58-90

Let all creatures praise the Lord

The Creator ... is blessed for ever (Rm 1:25).

Angels of the Lord,	bless the Lord.
You heavens,	bless the Lord.
All you waters above the heavens,	bless the Lord.
All you hosts of the Lord,	bless the Lord.
Sun and moon,	bless the Lord.
Stars of heaven,	bless the Lord.
Let the earth,	bless the Lord.
Mountains and hills,	bless the Lord.
Everything growing from the earth,	bless the Lord.
You springs,	bless the Lord.
Seas and Rivers,	bless the Lord.
You dolphins and all water creatures,	bless the Lord.
All you birds of the air,	bless the Lord.
All you beasts, wild and tame,	bless the Lord.
You sons of men,	bless the Lord.
O Israel,	bless the Lord.
Priests of Lord,	bless the Lord.
Servants of the Lord,	bless the Lord.
Spirits and souls of the just,	bless the Lord.
Holy men of humble heart,	bless the Lord.
Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael,	bless the Lord.

For he has delivered us from the nether world
and saved us from the power of death.
He has freed us from the raging flame
and delivered us from the fire.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
for his mercy endures forever.
Bless the God of gods, all you who fear the Lord;
praise him and give him thanks
because his mercy endures forever.

Ant III There was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising
God and saying: "glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to
men of good will, alleluia!"

Ant IV Today a little Son is born to us;* and he will be called mighty God.
alleluia, alleluia.

Psalm 150

Praise the Lord

*Sing with mind and heart, that is: give glory
to God with your whole being (Hesychius).*

Alleluia!

Praise God in his holy place,
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his powerful deeds,
praise his surpassing greatness.

O praise him with sound of trumpet,
praise him with lute and harp.
Praise him with timbrel and dance,
praise him with strings and pipes.

O praise him with resounding cymbals,
praise him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes,
give praise to the Lord. Alleluia!

Ant IV Today a little Son is born to us; and he will be called mighty God.
alleluia, alleluia.

Reading

Heb 1:1-2

In times past, God spoke in fragmentary and varied ways to our fathers through the prophets; in this, the final age, he has spoken to us through his son, whom he has made heir of all things and through whom he First created the universe.

Responsory ***The Lord has made known, * alleluia, alleluia.***
The Lord...
His saving power, * alleluia, alleluia.
Glory... The Lord...

C/Z Glory to God in the highest,* and peace on earth to men of good will.
alleluia.

Midday

(Psalms from the Midday prayer of the day on which Christmas falls)

Ant I Tell us, shepherds,* what have you seen? Who has appeared on earth?
We have seen a newborn infant, and a choir of angels praising the Lord.
alleluia, alleluia.

Ant II The angel said to the shepherds:* “I proclaim to you a great joy: today
the savior of the world is born for you, alleluia.”

Ant III There was with the angel * a multitude of the heavenly host, praising
God and saying: glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men
of good will. alleluia!

Ant IV Today a little Son is born to us;* and he will be called mighty God.
alleluia, alleluia.

Reading

I Jn 4:9

God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: he sent his only son to the world that we might have life through him.

V/. All the end of the earth, alleluia.

R/. Have seen the saving power of our God. alleluia.

Second Vespers

Ant I Yours is domination in the day of your power,* in the full splendor of the saints; from the womb before the coming of the day-star I have begotten you.

Psalm 109

The Messiah, King and Priest

*Christ's return will last until all his enemies
are made subject to him (1 Cor 15:25).*

The Lord's revelation to my Master:
"Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet."

The Lord will send from Zion
your scepter of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before daybreak I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.
"You are a priest for ever,
A priest like Melchizedeck of old."

The Master standing at your right hand
will shatter kings in the day of his great wrath.

He, the Judge of the nations,
will heap high the bodies;
heads shall be shattered far and wide.

He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Ant I Yours is domination in the day of your power, in the full splendor of the saints; from the womb before the coming of the day-star I have begotten you.

Ant II The Lord * has sent deliverance to his people; he has enjoined his covenant forever.

Psalm 110

God's marvelous works

Mighty and wonderful are your works, Lord God Almighty (Rv 15:3).

Alleluia!

I will thank the Lord with all my heart
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.
Great are the works of the Lord;
to be pondered by all who love them.

Majestic and glorious his work,
his justice stands firm for ever.
He makes us remember his wonders.
The Lord is compassion and love.

He gives food to those who fear him;
keeps his covenant ever in mind.
He has shown his might to his people
by giving them the lands of the nations.

His works are justice and truth;
his precepts are all of them sure,
standing firm for ever and ever;
they are made in uprightness and truth.

He has sent deliverance to his people
and established his covenant forever.
Holy his name to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who do so prove themselves wise.
His praise shall last forever!

Ant II The Lord has sent deliverance to his people; he has enjoined his covenant forever.

Ant III Like light in the darkness * he arose for the upright of heart; merciful and gracious and holy is our God.

Psalm 111

The happiness of a just man

Live as children born of the light. Light produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth (Eph 5:8-9).

Alleluia!

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright;
He is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honor.
The just man will never waver;
he will be remembered forever.

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm forever.
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,
gnashes his teeth and pines away;
The desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Ant III Like light in the darkness he arose for the upright of heart; merciful and gracious and holy is our God.

Ant IV With the Lord * there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Psalm 129

A cry from the depths

He himself will save his people from their sins (Mt 1:21)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.)

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

Ant IV With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Reading

I Jn 1:1-3

This is what we proclaim to you: what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked upon and our hands have touched — we speak of the word of life. This life became visible: we have seen and bear witness to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life that was present to the father and became visible to us. What we have seen and heard we proclaim in turn to you so that you may share life with us. This fellowship of ours is with the father and with his son, Jesus Christ.

Responsory ***The word became flesh, * alleluia, alleluia.***
The word....
And made his dwelling among us, * alleluia,
alleluia. Glory be... The word...

C/M Today Christ is born;* today our Savior is revealed; today the angels are singing on earth, the archangels are rejoicing; today the holy ones are praising, saying: glory to God in the highest, alleluia.

December 26

St. Stephen, the first martyr
Feast

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant They selected Stephen,* a man filled with faith and the holy spirit, to minister at the tables.

V/. They have all but put an end to me on earth.

R/. But I have not forsaken your precepts.

2nd Noct

Ant Stephen * was a man filled with grace and power, who worked great wonders and signs among the people.

V/. Look to God that you may be radiant with joy.

R/. Your faces may not blush with shame,

Lauds

(Psalms from Lauds Sunday I)

Invitatory Come to adore the newly born Christ, who crowned blessed Stephen.

Ant I They stoned Stephen,* while he invoked the Lord, praying: do not hold this sin against them.

Ant II The stones * of the tormentors were sweet to him; all the spirits of the just follow him.

Ant III My spirit * has held fast to you, my God; for my flesh has been stoned for you.

Ant IV I see an opening in the sky,* and Jesus standing at God's right side.

Reading

Acts 6:2b-5a

“It is not right for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. look around your own number, brothers, for seven men acknowledged to be deeply spiritual and prudent, and we shall appoint them to this task. This will permit us to concentrate on prayer and the ministry of the word.” The proposal was unanimously accepted by the community.

Responsory The Lord is my strength, * and I will sing his praise. The Lord...

**The Lord is my savior, * and I will sing his praise
Glory... The Lord...**

C/Z The gates of heaven * are opened to Stephen the martyr of Christ, and, being the First of the line of martyrs, he wears a crown of triumph in heaven. alleluia.

Midday

(*Psalms of the day*)

Ant I They stoned Stephen,* while he invoked the Lord, praying: do not hold this sin against them.

Ant II The stones * of the tormentors were sweet to him; all the spirits of the just follow him.

Ant III My spirit * has held fast to you, my God; for my flesh has been stoned for you.

Ant IV I see an opening in the sky,* and Jesus standing at God's right side.

Reading

Acts 7:60

Falling on his knees, Stephen cried out with a loud voice, Lord, do not hold this sin against them. With that he died.

**V/. Devout men buried Stephen,
R/. Bewailing him as they did so.**

Vespers

Ant I Yours is domination in the day of your power,* in the full splendor of the saints; from the womb before the coming of the day-star I have begotten you.

Psalm 109

The Messiah, King and Priest
*Christ's return will last until all his enemies
are made subject to him (1 Cor 15:25).*

The Lord's revelation to my Master:
"Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet."

The Lord will send from Zion
your scepter of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before daybreak I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change:
“You are a priest for ever,
A priest like Melchizedeck of old.”

The Master standing at your right hand,
will shatter kings in the day of his great wrath.

He, the Judge of the nations,
will heap high the bodies;
heads shall be shattered far and wide.

He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Ant I Yours is domination in the day of your power, in the full splendor of the saints; from the womb before the coming of the day-star I have begotten you.

Ant II The Lord * has sent deliverance to his people; he has enjoined his covenant forever.

Psalm 110

God's marvelous works

Mighty and wonderful are your works, Lord God Almighty (Rv 15:3).

Alleluia!

I will thank the Lord with all my heart
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.
Great are the works of the Lord;
to be pondered by all who love them.

Majestic and glorious his work,
his justice stands firm for ever.
He makes us remember his wonders.
The Lord is compassion and love.

He gives food to those who fear him;
keeps his covenant ever in mind.
He has shown his might to his people
by giving them the lands of the nations.

His works are justice and truth;
his precepts are all of them sure,
standing firm for ever and ever;
they are made in uprightness and truth.

He has sent deliverance to his people
and established his covenant forever.
Holy his name to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who do so prove themselves wise.
His praise shall last forever!

Ant II The Lord has sent deliverance to his people; he has enjoined his covenant forever.

Ant III Like light in the darkness * he arose for the upright of heart; merciful and gracious and holy is our God.

Psalm 111

The happiness of a just man

Live as children born of the light. Light produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth (Eph 5:8-9).

Alleluia!

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright;
He is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honor.
The just man will never waver;
he will be remembered forever.

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm forever.
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,
gnashes his teeth and pines away;
The desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Ant III Like light in the darkness he arose for the upright of heart; merciful and gracious and holy is our God.

Ant IV A Son,* the fruit of your body, will I set upon your throne.

Psalm 131

God's promises to the house of David

The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David (Lk 1:32).

O Lord, remember David
and all the hardships he endured,
the oath he swore to the Lord,
his vow to the Strong One of Jacob.

“I will not enter the house where I live
nor go to the place where I rest.
I will give no sleep to my eyes
to my eyelids I will give no slumber
‘till I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling for the Strong One of Jacob.”

At Ephrata we heard of the ark;
we found it in the plains of Yearim.
“Let us go to the place of his dwelling;
let us go to kneel at his footstool.”

Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest,
you and the ark of your strength.
Your priests shall be clothed with holiness:
your faithful shall ring out their joy.
For the sake of David your servant
do not reject your anointed.

The Lord swore an oath to David;
he will not go back on his word:
“A son, the fruit of your body,
will I set upon your throne.

If they keep my covenant in truth
and my laws that I have taught them,
their sons also shall rule
on your throne from age to age.”

For the Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwelling:
“This is my resting-place forever,
here have I chosen to live.

I will greatly bless her produce,
I will fill her poor with bread.
I will clothe her priests with salvation
and her faithful shall ring out their joy.

There David's stock will flower:
I will prepare a lamp for my anointed.
I will cover her enemies with shame
but on him my crown shall shine.”

Ant IV A Son, the fruit of your body, will I set upon your throne.

Reading

I Jn 1:1-3

This is what we proclaim to you: what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked upon and our hands have touched — we speak of the word of life. This life became visible: we have seen and bear witness to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life that was present to the father and became visible to us. What we have seen and heard we proclaim in turn to you so that you may share life with us. This fellowship of ours is with the father and with his son, Jesus Christ.

Responsory **The Lord became flesh, * alleluia, alleluia.**
The word....
And made his dwelling among us, * alleluia,
alleluia. Glory be... The Lord...

C/M While peaceful silence enveloped all things,* and night in its swift course was now half gone, your all-powerful word, O Lord, leaped from his royal throne. alleluia.

December 27

St. John, apostle and evangelist
feast

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant Jesus caught sight of James,* Zebedee's son, and his brother John. He called them, and immediately they abandoned nets and father to follow him.

V/. These words are trustworthy and true.

R/. It is I, John, who heard and saw all these things.

2nd Noct

Ant Jesus took Peter, James and John,* and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. He was transfigured before them.

V/. He who has ears, give heed,

R/. To what the spirit says to the churches.

Lauds

(Psalms from Lauds Sunday I)

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, King of the apostles.

Ant I Blessed John * is to be greatly honored, because he reclined on the chest of the Lord.

Ant II This is the disciple * who gives testimony concerning these things, and we know that his witness is true.

Ant III John, apostle and evangelist,* a virgin chosen by the Lord, was loved by the Lord above all others.

Ant IV To the virgin John,* Christ on the cross entrusted his virgin mother.

Reading

Acts 4:19-20

Peter and John answered, "judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight for us to obey you rather than God. Surely we cannot help speaking of what we have heard and seen."

Responsory

You have made them rulers, over all the earth. You have...

They will remember your name, Lord, over all the earth. Glory... You have...

C/Z This is John * who at the last supper reclined on the Lord's breast; he is that blessed apostle to whom the mysteries of heaven were revealed.

Midday

(Psalms of the day)

Ant I Blessed John * is to be greatly honored, because he reclined on the chest of the Lord.

Ant II This is the disciple * who gives testimony concerning these things, and we know that his witness is true.

Ant III John, apostle and evangelist,* a virgin chosen by the Lord, was loved by the Lord above all others.

Ant IV To the virgin John,* Christ on the cross entrusted his virgin mother.

Reading

Sir 15:3

With the bread of life and understanding did the Lord our God feed him, and give him the water of wisdom to drink.

V/. They proclaimed the Lord's praises.

R/. And the wonders he had worked.

Vespers

Ant I Yours is domination * in the day of your power, in the full splendor of the saints; from the womb before the coming of the day-star I have begotten you.

Psalm 109

The Messiah, King and Priest

Christ's return will last until all his enemies are made subject to him (1 Cor 15:25).

The Lord's revelation to my Master:
"Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet."

The Lord will send from Zion
your scepter of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before daybreak I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change:
“You are a priest for ever,
A priest like Melchizedeck of old.”

The Master standing at your right hand,
will shatter kings in the day of his great wrath.

He, the Judge of the nations,
will heap high the bodies;
heads shall be shattered far and wide.

He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Ant I Yours is domination in the day of your power, in the full splendor of the saints; from the womb before the coming of the day-star I have begotten you.

Ant II The Lord * has sent deliverance to his people; he has enjoined his covenant forever.

Psalm 110

God's marvelous works

Mighty and wonderful are your works, Lord God Almighty (Rv 15:3).

Alleluia!

I will thank the Lord with all my heart
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.
Great are the works of the Lord;
to be pondered by all who love them.

Majestic and glorious his work,
his justice stands firm for ever.
He makes us remember his wonders.
The Lord is compassion and love.

He gives food to those who fear him;
keeps his covenant ever in mind.
He has shown his might to his people
by giving them the lands of the nations.

His works are justice and truth;
his precepts are all of them sure,
standing firm for ever and ever;
they are made in uprightness and truth.

He has sent deliverance to his people
and established his covenant forever.
Holy his name to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who do so prove themselves wise.
His praise shall last forever!

Ant II The Lord has sent deliverance to his people; he has enjoined his covenant forever.

Ant III Like light in the darkness * he arose for the upright of heart; merciful and gracious and holy is our God.

Psalm 111

The happiness of a just man

Live as children born of the light. Light produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth (Eph 5:8-9).

Alleluia!

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright;
He is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honor.
The just man will never waver;
he will be remembered forever.

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm forever.
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,
gnashes his teeth and pines away;
The desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Ant III Like light in the darkness he arose for the upright of heart; merciful and gracious and holy is our God.

Ant IV A Son,* the fruit of your body, will I set upon your throne.

Psalm 131

God's promises to the house of David

The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David (Lk 1:32).

O Lord, remember David
and all the hardships he endured,
the oath he swore to the Lord,
his vow to the Strong One of Jacob.

“I will not enter the house where I live
nor go to the place where I rest.
I will give no sleep to my eyes
to my eyelids I will give no slumber
'till I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling for the Strong One of Jacob.”

At Ephrata we heard of the ark;
we found it in the plains of Yearim.
“Let us go to the place of his dwelling;
let us go to kneel at his footstool.”

Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest,
you and the ark of your strength.
Your priests shall be clothed with holiness:
your faithful shall ring out their joy.
For the sake of David your servant
do not reject your anointed.

The Lord swore an oath to David;
he will not go back on his word:
“A son, the fruit of your body,
will I set upon your throne.

If they keep my covenant in truth
and my laws that I have taught them,
their sons also shall rule
on your throne from age to age.”

For the Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwelling:
“This is my resting-place forever,
here have I chosen to live.

I will greatly bless her produce,
I will fill her poor with bread.
I will clothe her priests with salvation
and her faithful shall ring out their joy.

There David's stock will flower:
I will prepare a lamp for my anointed.
I will cover her enemies with shame
but on him my crown shall shine.”

Ant IV A Son, the fruit of your body, will I set upon your throne.

Reading

1 Jn 1:1-3

This is what we proclaim to you: what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked upon and our hands have touched—we speak of the word of life. This life became visible: we have seen and bear witness to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life that was present to the father and became visible to us. What we have seen and heard we proclaim I in turn to you so that you may share life with us. This fellowship of ours is with the father and with his son, Jesus Christ.

Responsory ***The word became flesh, * alleluia, alleluia.***
The word...
And made his dwelling among us, * alleluia,
alleluia. Glory be... The Lord...

C/M O Virgin God-bearer,* you have borne in your womb him whom the whole world cannot comprehend now made man; True faith of the Begotten One cleansed the world of its sins and your virginity remains inviolate.

December 28

Holy Innocents, martyrs
Feast

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant Herod became furious,* and ordered the massacre of all the boys two years old and under in Bethlehem.

V/. These holy ones sang a new song before the throne of God and the lamb.

R/. And the earth resounds with the echo of their voices.

2nd Noct

Ant A cry was heard at Ramah,* sobbing and loud lamentations, Rachel bewailing her children.

V/. Martyrs of God.

R/. Praise God forever.

Lauds

(Psalms from Lauds Sunday I)

Invitatory Come to adore the newly born Christ, who crowns the infant martyrs.

Ant I Clothed with white robes,* they will walk with me, says the Lord, for they are worthy and I will record their names forever in the book of life.

Ant II Their angels * always behold the face of my father in heaven.

Ant III The youthful saints * are renewed like the eagle; they shall blossom like lilies in the city of God.

Ant IV All the saints cried out * from under the throne of God: "judge our cause, O God, and avenge our blood."

Reading

Jer 31:15

In Ramah is heard the sound of moaning, of bitter weeping! Rachel mourns her children, she refuses to be consoled because her children are no more.

Responsory **The holy are friends of God, * they shall live forever. The holy...
God himself is their reward, * they shall live forever. Glory... The holy...**

C/Z Innocent infants were slain for Christ;* still nursing, they were put to death by an evil King; they follow the lamb without sin and always sing: glory to you, O Lord.

Midday

(Psalms of the day)

- Ant I Clothed with white robes,* they will walk with me, says the Lord, for they are worthy and I will record their names forever in the book of life.
- Ant II Their angels * always behold the face of my father in heaven.
- Ant III The youthful saints * are renewed like the eagle; they shall blossom like lilies in the city of God.
- Ant IV All the saints cried out * from under the throne of God: judge our cause, O God, and avenge our blood.

Reading

Jer 31:16-17a

Cease your cries of mourning, wipe the tears from your eyes. The sorrow you have shown shall have its reward. There is hope for your future, says the Lord.

V/. God clothed them with gladness.

R/. And crowned them with glory.

Vespers

- Ant I Yours is domination in the day of your power,* in the full splendor of the saints; from the womb before the coming of the day-star I have begotten you.

Psalm 109

The Messiah, King and Priest

Christ's return will last until all his enemies are made subject to him (1 Cor 15:25).

The Lord's revelation to my Master:
"Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet."

The Lord will send from Zion
your scepter of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before daybreak I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change:
“You are a priest for ever,
A priest like Melchizedeck of old.”

The Master standing at your right hand,
will shatter kings in the day of his great wrath.

He, the Judge of the nations,
will heap high the bodies;
heads shall be shattered far and wide.

He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Ant I Yours is domination in the day of your power, in the full splendor of the saints; from the womb before the coming of the day-star I have begotten you.

Ant II The Lord * has sent deliverance to his people; he has enjoined his covenant forever.

Psalm 110

God's marvelous works

Mighty and wonderful are your works, Lord God Almighty (Rv 15:3).

Alleluia!

I will thank the Lord with all my heart
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.
Great are the works of the Lord;
to be pondered by all who love them.

Majestic and glorious his work,
his justice stands firm for ever.
He makes us remember his wonders.
The Lord is compassion and love.

He gives food to those who fear him;
keeps his covenant ever in mind.
He has shown his might to his people
by giving them the lands of the nations.

His works are justice and truth;
his precepts are all of them sure,
standing firm for ever and ever;
they are made in uprightness and truth.

He has sent deliverance to his people
and established his covenant forever.
Holy his name to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who do so prove themselves wise.
His praise shall last forever!

Ant II The Lord has sent deliverance to his people; he has enjoined his covenant forever.

Ant III Like light in the darkness * he arose for the upright of heart; merciful and gracious and holy is our God.

Psalm 111

The happiness of a just man

Live as children born of the light. Light produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth (Eph 5:8-9).

Alleluia!

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright;
He is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honor.
The just man will never waver;
he will be remembered forever.

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm forever.
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,
gnashes his teeth and pines away;
The desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Ant III Like light in the darkness he arose for the upright of heart; merciful and gracious and holy is our God.

Ant IV A Son,* the fruit of your body, will I set upon your throne.

Psalm 131

God's promises to the house of David

The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David (Lk 1:32).

O Lord, remember David
and all the hardships he endured,
the oath he swore to the Lord,
his vow to the Strong One of Jacob.

“I will not enter the house where I live
nor go to the place where I rest.
I will give no sleep to my eyes
to my eyelids I will give no slumber
'till I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling for the Strong One of Jacob.”

At Ephrata we heard of the ark;
we found it in the plains of Yearim.
“Let us go to the place of his dwelling;
let us go to kneel at his footstool.”

Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest,
you and the ark of your strength.
Your priests shall be clothed with holiness:
your faithful shall ring out their joy.
For the sake of David your servant
do not reject your anointed.

The Lord swore an oath to David;
he will not go back on his word:
“A son, the fruit of your body,
will I set upon your throne.

If they keep my covenant in truth
and my laws that I have taught them,
their sons also shall rule
on your throne from age to age.”

For the Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwelling:
“This is my resting-place forever,
here have I chosen to live.

I will greatly bless her produce,
I will fill her poor with bread.
I will clothe her priests with salvation
and her faithful shall ring out their joy.

There David's stock will flower:
I will prepare a lamp for my anointed.
I will cover her enemies with shame
but on him my crown shall shine.”

Ant IV A Son, the fruit of your body. Will I set upon your throne.

Reading

I Jn 1:1-3

This is what we proclaim to you: what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked upon and our hands have touched — we speak of the word of life. This life became visible: we have seen and bear witness to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life that was present to the father and became visible to us. What we have seen and heard we proclaim in turn to you so that you may share life with us. This fellowship of ours is with the father and with his son, Jesus Christ.

Responsory **The word became flesh, * alleluia, alleluia.**
The word....
And made his dwelling among us, * alleluia,
alleluia. Glory be... The word...

C/M The virgin not knowing man is now a mother,* having borne the savior of the world without suffering; the virgin nurses the very King of angels from the highest heavens.

December 29

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant In the beginning * and before the ages the word was God; he himself is born the savior of the world for us.

V/. The Lord came forth from his holy place.
R/. He came to save his people.

2nd Noct

Ant Today * in the city of David a Savior is born for us, who is Christ the Lord.

V/. Once they saw, the shepherds understood from the word, alleluia.
R/. What had been told them concerning the child, alleluia.

Lauds

(Psalms from Lauds Sunday I)

Invitatory Come to adore Christ now born to us.

Ant I Tell us, shepherds,* what have you seen? Who has appeared on earth? We have seen a newborn infant, and a choir of angels praising the Lord. alleluia, alleluia.

Ant II The angel said to the shepherd's:* "I proclaim to you a great joy: today the savior of the world is born for you. alleluia."

Ant III There was with the angel * a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: "glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will, alleluia!"

Ant IV Today a little Son is born to us;* and he will be called mighty God. alleluia, alleluia!

Reading

Heb 1:1-2

In times past, God spoke in fragmentary and varied ways to our fathers through the prophets; in this, the final age, he has spoken to us through his son, whom he has made heir of all things and through whom he first created the universe.

Responsory **The Lord has made known, * alleluia, alleluia.**
 The Lord...
 His saving power, * alleluia, alleluia. Glory...
 The Lord...

C/Z The shepherds said to one another:* "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this word which the Lord has made known to us."

Midday

(Psalms of the day)

- Ant I Tell us, shepherds,* what have you seen? Who has appeared on earth?
We have seen a newborn infant, and a choir of angels praising the Lord.
alleluia, alleluia.
- Ant II The angel said to the shepherd's:* "I proclaim to you a great joy: today
the Savior of the world is born for you. Alleluia."
- Ant III There was with the angel * a multitude of the heavenly host, praising
God and saying: "glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to
men of good will. Alleluia!"
- Ant IV Today a little Son is born to us;* and he will be called mighty God.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Reading

I Jn 4:9

God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: he sent his only son to the world that we might have life through him.

V/. All the ends of the earth, alleluia.

R/. Have seen the saving power of our God, alleluia.

Vespers

- Ant I Yours is domination in the day of your power,* in the full splendor of the
saints; from the womb before the coming of the day-star I have
begotten you.

Psalm 109

The Messiah, King and Priest

*Christ's return will last until all his enemies
are made subject to him (1 Cor 15:25).*

The Lord's revelation to my Master:
"Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet."

The Lord will send from Zion
your scepter of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before daybreak I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change:
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A priest like Melchizedeck of old.”

The Master standing at your right hand,
will shatter kings in the day of his great wrath.

He, the Judge of the nations,
will heap high the bodies;
heads shall be shattered far and wide.

He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

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in the meeting of the just and their assembly.
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Majestic and glorious his work,
his justice stands firm for ever.
He makes us remember his wonders.
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his precepts are all of them sure,
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He has sent deliverance to his people
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Holy his name to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who do so prove themselves wise.
His praise shall last forever!

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covenant forever.

Ant III Like light in the darkness * he arose for the upright of heart; merciful
and gracious and holy is our God.

Psalm 111

The happiness of a just man
*Live as children born of the light. Light produces every
kind of goodness and justice and truth (Eph 5:8-9).*

Alleluia!

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who takes delight in his commands.
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and all the hardships he endured,
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nor go to the place where I rest.
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At Ephrata we heard of the ark;
we found it in the plains of Yearim.
“Let us go to the place of his dwelling;
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you and the ark of your strength.
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For the sake of David your servant
do not reject your anointed.

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I Jn 1:1-3

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Responsory **The word became flesh, * alleluia, alleluia.**
The word...
And made his dwelling among us, * alleluia,
alleluia. Glory be... The word...

C/M The King of heaven * humbled himself to be born of a virgin, so that he may recall fallen mankind to the heavenly kingdom.

December 30

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant Lift up your gates, princes,* and the King of glory will enter.

V/. We have seen his glory, alleluia.
R/. The glory of an only son coming from the father. Alleluia.

2nd Noct

Ant Truth shall spring from the earth,* and justice looked down from heaven.

V/. The Lord has made known, alleluia.

R/. His saving power. Alleluia.

Lauds

(Psalms from Lauds Sunday I)

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now born to us.

Ant I Tell us, shepherds,* what have you seen? Who has appeared on earth?
We have seen a newborn infant, and a choir of angels praising the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Ant II The angel said to the shepherds:* "I proclaim to you a great joy: today
the savior of the world is born for you, alleluia."

Ant III There was with the angel * a multitude of the heavenly host, praising
God and saying: glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men
of good will. Alleluia!"

Ant IV Today a little son is born to us;* and he will be called mighty God.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Reading

Is 9:6

A child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulders dominion rests.
They name him wonder-counselor, God-hero, father-forever, prince of peace.

Responsory **The Lord has made known, * alleluia, alleluia.**
 The Lord....
 His saving power, * alleluia, alleluia. Glory...
 The Lord....

C/Z At the Lord's birth,* the angelic choir sang: blessed is our God, and the
lamb, sitting upon the kingly throne.

Midday

(Psalms of the day)

Ant I Tell us, shepherds,* what have you seen? Who has appeared on earth?
We have seen a newborn infant, and a choir of angels praising the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Ant II The angel said to the shepherd:* "I proclaim to you a great joy: today
the savior of the world is born for you. Alleluia."

Ant III There was with the angel * a multitude of the heavenly host, praising
God and saying: "glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to
men of good will. Alleluia!"

Ant IV Today a little Son is born to us;* and he will be called mighty God.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Reading

Is 12:5-6

Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Sion, for great in your midst is the holy one of Israel.

V/. All the ends of the earth, alleluia.

R/. Have seen the saving power of our God, alleluia.

Vespers

Ant I Yours is domination in the day of your power,* in the full splendor of the saints; from the womb before the coming of the day-star I have begotten you.

Psalm 109

The Messiah, King and Priest

*Christ's return will last until all his enemies
are made subject to him (1 Cor 15:25).*

The Lord's revelation to my Master:
"Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet."

The Lord will send from Zion
your scepter of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before daybreak I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change:
"You are a priest for ever,
A priest like Melchizedeck of old."

The Master standing at your right hand,
will shatter kings in the day of his great wrath.

He, the Judge of the nations,
will heap high the bodies;
heads shall be shattered far and wide.

He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Ant I Yours is domination in the day of your power, in the full splendor of the saints; from the womb before the coming of the day-star I have begotten you.

Ant II The Lord * has sent deliverance to his people; he has enjoined his covenant forever.

Psalm 110

God's marvelous works

Mighty and wonderful are your works, Lord God Almighty (Rv 15:3).

Alleluia!

I will thank the Lord with all my heart
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.
Great are the works of the Lord;
to be pondered by all who love them.

Majestic and glorious his work,
his justice stands firm for ever.
He makes us remember his wonders.
The Lord is compassion and love.

He gives food to those who fear him;
keeps his covenant ever in mind.
He has shown his might to his people
by giving them the lands of the nations.

His works are justice and truth;
his precepts are all of them sure,
standing firm for ever and ever;
they are made in uprightness and truth.

He has sent deliverance to his people
and established his covenant forever.
Holy his name to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who do so prove themselves wise.
His praise shall last forever!

Ant II The Lord has sent deliverance to his people; he has enjoined his covenant forever.

Ant III Like light in the darkness * he arose for the upright of heart; merciful and gracious and holy is our God.

Psalm 111

The happiness of a just man

Live as children born of the light. Light produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth (Eph 5:8-9).

Alleluia!

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright;
He is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honor.
The just man will never waver;
he will be remembered forever.

He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
he will see the downfall of his foes

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm forever.
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,
gnashes his teeth and pines away;
The desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Ant III Like light in the darkness he arose for the upright of heart; merciful and gracious and holy is our God.

Ant IV A Son,* the fruit of your body, will I set upon your throne.

Psalm 131

God's promises to the house of David

The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David (Lk 1:32).

O Lord, remember David
and all the hardships he endured,
the oath he swore to the Lord,
his vow to the Strong One of Jacob.

“I will not enter the house where I live
nor go to the place where I rest.
I will give no sleep to my eyes
to my eyelids I will give no slumber
'till I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling for the Strong One of Jacob.”

At Ephrata we heard of the ark;
we found it in the plains of Yearim.
“Let us go to the place of his dwelling;
let us go to kneel at his footstool.”

Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest,
you and the ark of your strength.
Your priests shall be clothed with holiness:
your faithful shall ring out their joy.
For the sake of David your servant
do not reject your anointed.

The Lord swore an oath to David;
he will not go back on his word:
“A son, the fruit of your body,
will I set upon your throne.

If they keep my covenant in truth
and my laws that I have taught them,
their sons also shall rule
on your throne from age to age.”

For the Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwelling:
“This is my resting-place forever,
here have I chosen to live.

I will greatly bless her produce,
I will fill her poor with bread.
I will clothe her priests with salvation
and her faithful shall ring out their joy.

There David's stock will flower:
I will prepare a lamp for my anointed.
I will cover her enemies with shame
but on him my crown shall shine.”

Ant IV A Son, the fruit of your body, will I set upon your throne.

Reading

I Jn 1:1-3

This is what we proclaim to you: what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked upon and our hands have touched — we speak of the word of life. This life became visible: we have seen and bear witness to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life that was present to the father and became visible to us. What we have seen and heard we proclaim in turn to you so that you may share life with us. This fellowship of ours is with the father and with his son, Jesus Christ.

Responsory ***The word became flesh, * alleluia, alleluia,
The word...
And made his dwelling among us, * alleluia,
alleluia. Glory be... The word...***

C/M We sing your praises,* Mary the God-bearer; you gave birth to Christ;
protect all who honor you.

December 31

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant You throne, God,* shall endure forever; the scepter of justice is the
scepter of your kingdom.

V/. *Supporting all things by his powerful word, alleluia.*
R/. *He sits at the right hand of the majesty in heaven. Alleluia.*

2nd Noct

Ant Love and truth * walk in your presence, O Lord.

**V/. *In these last days God has spoken to us through his son,
alleluia,***
R/. *Through whom he made all things. Alleluia.*

Lauds

(Psalms of the day)

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now born to us.

Ant I Tell us, shepherds,* what have you seen? Who has appeared on earth?
We have seen a newborn infant, and a choir of angels praising the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Ant II The angel said to the shepherds:* “I proclaim to you a great joy: today the savior of the world is born for you. Alleluia.”

Ant III There was with the angel * a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: “glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will. Alleluia!”

Ant IV Today * a little Son is born to us; and he will be called mighty God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Reading

Is 4:2-3

On that day, the branch of the Lord will be luster and glory, and the fruit of the earth will be honor and splendor for the survivors of Israel. He who remains in Sion and he that is left in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone marked down for life in Jerusalem.

Responsory **The Lord has made known, * alleluia, alleluia**
The Lord...
His saving power, * alleluia, alleluia.
Glory... The Lord...

C/Z There was with the angel * a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: “glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will. Alleluia!”

Midday

(Psalms of the day)

Ant I Tell us, shepherds,* what have you seen? Who has appeared on earth? We have seen a newborn infant, and a choir of angels praising the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Ant II The angel said to the shepherds.* “I proclaim to you a great joy: today the savior of the world is born for you. Alleluia.”

Ant III There was with the angel,* a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: “glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will. alleluia!”

Ant IV Today a little Son is born to us;* and he will be called mighty God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Reading

Is 48:20

With shouts of joy proclaim this, make it known; publish it to the ends of the earth, and say, “the Lord has redeemed his servant Jacob!”

V/. All the ends of the earth, alleluia,
R/. Have seen the saving power of our God, alleluia.

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

*(When Christmas falls on a Sunday, this feast is
celebrated on December 30th without First Vespers).*

First Vespers

Ant 1 Jacob was the father of Joseph,* the husband of Mary, of whom was
born Jesus called the messiah.

Psalm 109

The Messiah, King and Priest
*Christ's return will last until all his enemies
are made subject to him (1 Cor 15:25).*

The Lord's revelation to my Master:
"Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet."

The Lord will send from Zion
your scepter of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before daybreak I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change:
"You are a priest for ever,
A priest like Melchizedeck of old."

The Master standing at your right hand,
will shatter kings in the day of his great wrath.

He, the Judge of the nations,
will heap high the bodies;
heads shall be shattered far and wide.

He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

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born Jesus called the messiah.

Ant II Getting up,* Joseph took the child and his mother, and left that night for Egypt.

Psalm 110

God's marvelous works

Mighty and wonderful are your works, Lord God Almighty (Rv 15:3).

Alleluia!

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in the meeting of the just and their assembly.
Great are the works of the Lord;
to be pondered by all who love them.

Majestic and glorious his work,
his justice stands firm for ever.
He makes us remember his wonders.
The Lord is compassion and love.

He gives food to those who fear him;
keeps his covenant ever in mind.
He has shown his might to his people
by giving them the lands of the nations.

His works are justice and truth;
his precepts are all of them sure,
standing firm for ever and ever;
they are made in uprightness and truth.

He has sent deliverance to his people
and established his covenant forever.
Holy his name to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who do so prove themselves wise.
His praise shall last forever!

Ant II Getting up, Joseph took the child and his mother, and left that night for Egypt.

Ant III The boy Jesus * grew steadily in wisdom age, and grace before God and men.

Psalm 111

The happiness of a just man

Live as children born of the light. Light produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth (Eph 5:8-9).

Alleluia!

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;
his justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright;
He is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honor.
The just man will never waver;
he will be remembered forever.

He has no fear of evil news;
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With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
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Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm forever.
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,
gnashes his teeth and pines away;
The desire of the wicked leads to doom.

Ant III The boy Jesus grew steadily in wisdom, age and grace before God and men.

Ant IV Jesus himself * was about thirty years old, as it was supposed, the son of Joseph. Alleluia.

Psalm 131

God's promises to the house of David

The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David (Lk 1:32).

O Lord, remember David
and all the hardships he endured,
the oath he swore to the Lord,
his vow to the Strong One of Jacob.

“I will not enter the house where I live
nor go to the place where I rest.
I will give no sleep to my eyes
to my eyelids I will give no slumber
'till I find a place for the Lord,
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At Ephrata we heard of the ark;
we found it in the plains of Yearim.
“Let us go to the place of his dwelling;
let us go to kneel at his footstool.”

Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest,
you and the ark of your strength.
Your priests shall be clothed with holiness:
your faithful shall ring out their joy.
For the sake of David your servant
do not reject your anointed.

The Lord swore an oath to David;
he will not go back on his word:
“A son, the fruit of your body,
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If they keep my covenant in truth
and my laws that I have taught them,
their sons also shall rule
on your throne from age to age.”

For the Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwelling:
“This is my resting-place forever,
here have I chosen to live.

I will greatly bless her produce,
I will fill her poor with bread.
I will clothe her priests with salvation
and her faithful shall ring out their joy.

There David's stock will flower:
I will prepare a lamp for my anointed.
I will cover her enemies with shame
but on him my crown shall shine.”

Ant IV Jesus himself was about thirty years old, as it was supposed, the son
of Joseph. Alleluia.

Reading

2 Cor 8:9

You are well acquainted with the favor shown you by our Lord Jesus Christ: how for your sake he made himself poor though he was rich, so that you might become rich by his poverty.

Responsory ***The word became flesh, * and made his dwelling among us. The word...
Of his fullness we have all had a share, * and made his dwelling among us. Glory... The word...***

C/M The child Jesus remained in Jerusalem,* and his parents did not know it. They thought he was in the group of travelers and looked for him among their relatives and friends.

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant Joseph, son of David,* have no fear about taking Mary as your wife, for it is by the holy spirit that she has conceived this child. Alleluia.

V/. *All your sons shall be taught by the Lord,*
R/. *And great shall be the peace of your children.*

2nd Noct

Ant When his parents brought the child Jesus into the temple,* Simeon took him in his arms and praised God: now, master, you can dismiss your servant in peace.

V/. *Hear, my son, and receive my words,*
R/. *And the years of your life shall be many.*

Lauds

(Psalms from Lauds Sunday I)

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, the Son of God, who was obedient to Mary and Joseph.

Ant I The angel Gabriel * was sent to a virgin betrothed to Joseph.

Ant II You are to name him Jesus,* because he will save his people from their sins. Alleluia.

Ant III The Lord God * will give him the throne of David his father, and he will reign forever.

Ant IV Jesus went down with them,* and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.

Reading

Dt 5 :16

Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord, your God has commanded you, that you may have a long life and prosperity in the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you.

Responsory **Christ, Son of the living food, * have mercy on us. Christ....**
You were obedient to Mary and Joseph, have mercy on us. Glory... Christ...

A-C/Z Jacob was the father of Joseph,* the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus called the Messiah.

B-C/Z The old man carried the infant,* the infant, however, ruled the old man: the infant to whom the virgin gave birth. Remaining a virgin and she adores him.

C-C/Z The child Jesus remained in Jerusalem * and his parents did not know it, thinking he was in the group of travelers they looked for him among their relatives and friends.

Midday

(Psalms of the day)

Ant I The angel Gabriel * was sent to a virgin betrothed to Joseph.

Ant II You are to name him Jesus,* because he will save his people from their sins. Alleluia.

Ant III The Lord God * will give him the throne of David his father, and he will reign forever.

Ant IV Jesus went down with them,* and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.

Reading

Col 3:14-15

Over all these virtues put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect. Christ's peace must reign in your hearts, since as members of the one body you have been called to that peace. Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness.

V/. I am a poor man and at work since my youth.
R/. Once exalted, I am not humbled and left bewildered.

Vespers

Ant I Jacob was the father of Joseph,* the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus called the Messiah.

Psalm 109

The Messiah, King and Priest
*Christ's return will last until all his enemies
are made subject to him (1 Cor 15:25).*

The Lord's revelation to my Master:
"Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet."

The Lord will send from Zion
your scepter of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before daybreak I begot you.

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"You are a priest for ever,
A priest like Melchizedeck of old."

The Master standing at your right hand,
will shatter kings in the day of his great wrath.

He, the Judge of the nations,
will heap high the bodies;
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He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

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Alleluia!

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Majestic and glorious his work,
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The Lord is compassion and love.

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of Joseph. Alleluia.

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The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David (Lk 1:32).

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and all the hardships he endured,
the oath he swore to the Lord,
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“Let us go to the place of his dwelling;
let us go to kneel at his footstool.”

Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest,
you and the ark of your strength.
Your priests shall be clothed with holiness:
your faithful shall ring out their joy.
For the sake of David your servant
do not reject your anointed.

The Lord swore an oath to David;
he will not go back on his word:
“A son, the fruit of your body,
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If they keep my covenant in truth
and my laws that I have taught them,
their sons also shall rule
on your throne from age to age.”

For the Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwelling:
“This is my resting-place forever,
here have I chosen to live.

I will greatly bless her produce,
I will fill her poor with bread.
I will clothe her priests with salvation
and her faithful shall ring out their joy.

There David's stock will flower:
I will prepare a lamp for my anointed.
I will cover her enemies with shame
but on him my crown shall shine.”

Ant IV Jesus himself was about thirty years old, as it was supposed, the son
of Joseph. Alleluia.

Reading

Phil 2:6-7

Though he was in the form of God, Christ Jesus equality with God something to be grasped did not deem at. Rather, he emptied himself and took the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men. He was known to be of human estate and it was thus that he humbled himself.

Responsory ***He had to be identified with his brothers, * so that he would be merciful. He had...
Seen on earth, he spoke with men and women, * so that he would be merciful. Glory... He had...***

A-C/M His mother said to him:* “Son, why have you done this to us? You see that your father and I were searching for you in sorrow.”

B-C/M When his parents brought the child Jesus into the temple,* Simeon took him in his arms and praised God: “now, master, you can dismiss your servant in peace.”

C-C/M “Son, why have you done this to us? * You see that your father and I were searching for you in sorrow.” “Why did you search for me? Did you not know that I had to be in my father’s house?”

Solemnity of Mary the mother of God January 1

Fist Vespers

Ant I O marvelous exchange!* Mankind’s creator, taking up a living body, being born of a virgin; and becoming man without man’s aid, enriched us with his divinity.

Psalm 109

The Messiah, King and Priest
*Christ’s return will last until all his enemies
are made subject to him (1 Cor 15:25).*

The Lord’s revelation to my Master:
“Sit on my right;
your foes I will put beneath your feet.”

The Lord will send from Zion
your scepter of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before daybreak I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change:
“You are a priest for ever,
A priest like Melchizedeck of old.”

The Master standing at your right hand,
will shatter kings in the day of his great wrath.

He, the Judge of the nations,
will heap high the bodies;
heads shall be shattered far and wide.

He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Ant I O marvelous exchange! Mankind’s creator, taking up a living body,
being born of a virgin; and becoming man without man’s aid, enriched
us with his divinity.

Ant II Scriptures were fulfilled * by your miraculous birth of the virgin; like rain
upon the fleece, you have descended and saved humanity; we praise
you our God!

Psalm 112

Praiseworthy is the name of the Lord
He has cast down the mighty and has lifted up the lowly (Lk 1:52).

Alleluia!

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore!
From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the dungheap he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of the people.
To the childless wife he gives a home
and gladdens her heart with children.

Ant II Scriptures were fulfilled by your miraculous birth of the virgin; like rain upon the fleece, you have descended and saved humanity; we praise you our God!

Ant III Your blessed and fruitful virginity * is like the bush which Moses saw flaming yet unconsumed; O Mother of God, intercede for us!

Psalm 121

Jerusalem the holy city

*You have come to Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem
and the city of the living God (Heb 12:22).*

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
“Let us go to God’s house.”
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel’s law it is,
there to praise the Lord’s name.
There were set the thrones of judgment
of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
“Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!”

For love of my brethren and friends
I say: "Peace upon you!"
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good.

Ant III Your blessed and fruitful virginity is like the bush which Moses saw
flaming yet unconsumed; O Mother of God, intercede for us!

Ant IV Behold!* Mary has given birth to our Savior, whom John saw and then
proclaimed: behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the
world. Alleluia.

Psalm 126

Apart from God, work is worthless
You are God's building (1 Cor 3:9).

If the Lord does not build the house,
in vain do its builders labor;
if the Lord does not watch over the city,
in vain does the watchman keep vigil.

In vain is your earlier rising,
your going later to rest,
you who toil for the bread you eat,
when he pours gifts on his beloved while they slumber.

Truly sons are a gift from the Lord,
a blessing, the fruit of the womb.
Indeed the sons of youth
are like arrows in the hand of a warrior.

O the happiness of the man
who has filled his quiver with these arrows!
He will have no cause for shame
when he disputes with his foes in the gateways.

Ant IV Behold! Mary has given birth to our savior, whom John saw and then
proclaimed: behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the
world. Alleluia.

Reading

Gal 4:4

When the designated time had come, God sent forth his son born of a
woman, born under the law, to deliver from the law those who were subjected to
it, so that we might receive our status as adopted sons.

Responsory **The word became flesh, * alleluia, alleluia.**
The word...
and made his dwelling among us, * alleluia. Alleluia.
Glory... The word...

C/M Because of the abundance of love * with which God has First loved us, he sent his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh.

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant Behold,* the virgin shall be with child and give birth to a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel.

V/. I have been as fruitful as a rose planted near running waters.

R/. I give forth perfume like the sweet scent of the vine.

2nd Noct

Ant I am the mother of beautiful love, of fear, of knowledge; in me is found all hope of life and power.

V/. My fruit is better than gold and precious stones.

R/. And my yield than choice silver.

Lauds

(Psalms from Lauds Sunday I)

Invitatory Celebrating the motherhood of the virgin Mary. Come to adore her Son, Christ the Lord.

Ant I O marvelous exchange!* Mankind's creator, taking up a living body, being born of a virgin; and becoming man without man's aid, enriched us with his divinity.

Ant II Scriptures were fulfilled * by your miraculous birth of the virgin; like rain upon the fleece, you have descended and saved humanity; we praise you our God!

Ant III Your blessed and fruitful virginity * is like the bush which Moses saw flaming yet unconsumed; O Mother of God, intercede for us!

Ant IV Behold!* Mary has given birth to our Savior, whom John saw and then proclaimed: "behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Alleluia."

Reading

Mi 5: 3-5a

The ruler in Israel will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord, in the majestic name of the Lord, his God. He shall be peace!

Responsory **The Lord has made known, * alleluia, alleluia.**
The Lord...
His saving power, * alleluia, alleluia.
Glory... The Lord...

C/Z Today a marvelous mystery is proclaimed: * nature is renewed, God has become man. He remained what he was and assumed what he was not, undergoing neither blending nor separation.

Midday

- Ant I O marvelous exchange! * Mankind's creator, taking up a living body, being born of a virgin, and having become man without man's aid, enriched us with his divinity.
- Ant II Scriptures were fulfilled * by your miraculous birth of the virgin; like rain upon the fleece, you have descended and saved humanity; we praise you our God!
- Ant III Your blessed and fruitful virginity * is like the bush which Moses saw flaming yet unconsumed; O Mother of God, intercede for us!
- Ant IV Behold! * Mary has given birth to our savior, whom John saw and then proclaimed: behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Alleluia.

Reading

Zec 9: 9a

Rejoice heartily, O daughter of Sion, shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem. See, your King shall come to you; a just savior is he.

V/. Mercy and truth have come together, alleluia.
R/. Justice and peace have kissed, alleluia.

Second Vespers

(Everything from First Vespers except the following)

C/M Great is the mystery of our inheritance! The womb of her who knew not man has become the temple of God, who remained undefiled by taking up flesh from her. All peoples shall come and say: glory to you, O Lord.

The ordinary for January 2nd through the 7th
January 2
Vigils

1st Noct

Ant Who is the liar?* He who denies that Jesus is the Christ.

V/. Fairer in beauty are you than the sons of men;
R/. Grace is poured out upon your lips.

2nd Noct

Ant If what you heard from the beginning abides in you,* then you will abide in the son and in the father.

V/. Sing to the Lord and bless his name.
R/. Proclaim his saving love day after day.

Lauds

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now born to us.

Reading

Is 49:8-9

In a time of favor I answer you, on the day of salvation I help you, to restore the land and allot the desolate heritages, saying to the prisoners: come out! To those in darkness: show yourselves!

R/. The Lord has made known, * alleluia, alleluia. The Lord...
V/. His saving power, * alleluia, alleluia. Glory... The Lord...

C/Z John said,* "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord."

Midday

Reading

Rv 21:23-24

The city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the lamb. The nations shall walk by its light; to it the kings of the earth shall bring their treasures.

V/. *The Lord has remembered his gracious promise, alleluia.*
R/. *He has kept faith with his people Israel, alleluia.*

Vespers

Reading

Col 1:13-15

God rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved son. Through him we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creatures.

Responsory ***The word became flesh, * alleluia, alleluia.***
 The word...
 And made his dwelling among us, * alleluia,
 alleluia. Glory... The word...

C/M John answered them:* "I baptize with water, but among you stands one whom you do not know, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.

January 3

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant See what love the Father has given us,* that we should be called the children of God; and so we are.

V/. *Fairer in beauty are you than the sons of men;*
R/. *Grace is poured out upon your lips.*

2nd Noct

Ant No one who abides in God sins;* no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

V/. *Sing to the Lord and bless his name.*
R/. *Proclaim his saving love day after day.*

Lauds

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now born to us.

Reading

Is 62:11-12

Say to daughter Sion, your savior comes! Here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. They shall be called a holy people, redeemed by the Lord.

Responsory **The Lord has made known, * alleluia, alleluia.**
The Lord...
His saving power, * alleluia, alleluia. Glory...
The Lord...

C/Z John saw Jesus coming toward him,* and said,“behold, the lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

Midday

Reading

Is 9:1

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.

V/. The Lord has remembered his gracious promise, alleluia.
R/. He has kept faith with his people Israel, alleluia.

Vespers

Reading

Jn 1: 5b-7

God is light; in him there is no darkness. If we walk in light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his son Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

Responsory **The word became flesh, * alleluia, alleluia.**
The word...
And made his dwelling among us, * alleluia,
alleluia. Glory... The word...

C/M John bore witness,* “I saw the spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him.”

January 4

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant Children, let no one deceive you;* he who does right is righteous.

V/. Fairer in beauty are you than the sons of men;

R/. Grace is poured out upon your lips.

2nd Noct

Ant No one born of God commits sin;* for God's nature abides in him.

V/. Sing to the Lord and bless his name.

R/. Proclaim his saving love day after day.

Lauds

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now born to us.

Reading

Is 45:22-24

Turn to me and be safe, all you ends of the earth, for I am God; there is no other! By myself I swear, uttering my just decree and my unalterable word: to me every knee shall bend; by me every tongue shall swear.

Responsory **The Lord has made known, alleluia, alleluia.**
The Lord...
Is saving power, alleluia, alleluia. Glory...
The Lord...

C/Z Two disciples heard John say:* "Behold, the lamb of God!" and they followed Jesus.

Midday

Reading

Jer 31:11-12

The Lord shall ransom Jacob, he shall redeem him from the hand of his conqueror shouting, "they shall mount the heights of Sion, they shall come streaming to the Lord's blessings."

V/. The Lord has remembered his gracious promise, alleluia.
R/. He has kept faith with his people Israel, alleluia.

Vespers

Reading

Rm 8:3-4

God sent his son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin-offering, so that the just demands of the law might be fulfilled in us who live, not according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

Responsory ***The word became flesh, * alleluia, alleluia.
The word...
And made his dwelling among us, * alleluia,
alleluia. Glory... The !Lord***

C/M Andrew first found his brother Simon,* and said to him, “we have found the Messiah.”

January 5 Vigils

1st Noct

Ant This is the message * which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

V/. *Fairer in beauty are you than the sons of men;*
R/. *Grace is poured out upon your lips.*

2nd Noct

Ant Beloved,* if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God.

V/. *Sing to the Lord and bless his name.*
R/. *Proclaim his saving love day after day.*

Lauds

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now born to us.

Reading

Wis 7:26-27

Wisdom is the refulgence of eternal light, the spotless mirror of the power of God, the image of his goodness. And she, who is one, can do all things, and renews everything while herself enduring; and passing into holy souls from age to age, she produces friends of God and prophets.

Responsory **The Lord has made known, * alleluia, alleluia.**
The Lord...
His saving power, alleluia, alleluia. Glory...
The Lord...

C/Z Philip said to Nathanael:* “We have found him of whom Moses and the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

Midday

Reading

Ez: 34:11-12

I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark.

V/. The Lord has remembered his gracious promise, alleluia
R/. He has kept faith with his people Israel, alleluia.

Vespers

Reading

1 Jn 5:20

We know that the son of God has come and has given us discernment to recognize the one who is true. and we are in the one who is true, and we are in his son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

Responsory **The word became flesh, * alleluia, alleluia.**
The word...
And made his dwelling among us, * alleluia,
alleluia. Glory... The word...

C/M Nathanael answered Jesus:* “Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the King of Israel.”

January 6

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant Who is it that overcomes the world * but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

V/. Fairer in beauty are you than the sons of men;
R/. Grace is poured out upon your lips.

2nd Noct

Ant The spirit is the witness,* because the spirit is the truth.

V/. Sing to the Lord and bless his name.

R/. Proclaim his saving help day after day.

Lauds

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now born to us.

Reading

Is 61:1-2a

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted. To proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord.

Responsory **The Lord has made known, * alleluia, alleluia.**
The Lord...
Is saving power. * alleluia, alleluia. Glory...
The Lord...

C/Z John preached,* “after me comes he who is mightier than I, he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Midday

Reading

Is 42:1

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations.

V/. The Lord has remembered his gracious promise. Alleluia.
R/. He has kept faith with his people Israel. Alleluia.

Vespers

Reading

Acts 10:37-38

I take it you know what has been reported all over Judea about Jesus of Nazareth, beginning in galilee with the baptism John preached; of the way God anointed him with the holy spirit and power. He went about doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the devil, and God was with him.

Responsory **The word became flesh, * alleluia, alleluia.**
The word...
And made his dwelling among us. * Alleluia,
alleluia. Glory... The word...

C/M When Jesus came up out of the water,* a voice came from heaven,
“you are my beloved son; with you I am well pleased .”

January 7

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant This is the confidence * which we have in him: if we ask anything
according to his will, he hears us.

V/. Fairer in beauty are you than the sons of men;
R/. Grace is poured out upon your lips.

2nd Noct

Ant If we know that He hears us * whenever we ask, we know that we will
obtain that asked of him.

V/. Sing to the Lord and bless his name.
R/. Proclaim his saving love day after day.

Lauds

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now born to us.

Reading

Is 9:5

A child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulders dominion rests.
They name him wonder-counselor, God-hero, father-forever, prince of peace.

Responsory **The Lord has made known, * alleluia, alleluia.**
The Lord...
His saving power, * alleluia, alleluia. Glory...
The Lord...

C/Z His mother said to the servants,* “Do whatever he tells you.” Jesus said
to them: “fill the jars with water.

Midday

Reading

Is 12:5-6

Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, city of Sion, for great in your midst is the holy one of Israel.

V/. *The Lord has remembered his gracious promise, alleluia.*

R/. *He has kept faith with his people Israel, alleluia,*

The Epiphany of our Lord

Vespers

(Psalms from Second Vespers of Sunday I)

Ant I Begotten of the Father * before the day star shone and time began, the Lord, our savior, appeared to the world.

Ant II Jerusalem, your light has come,* and the glory of the Lord arises over you; all the nations shall walk in your light, alleluia.

Ant III Opening their treasures,* the wise men offered to the Lord gold, frankincense and myrrh, alleluia.

Ant IV The star sparkled like a flame,* pointing the way to God, the King of Kings; the wise men saw the star and came offering gifts to the great King.

Reading

2 Tm 1:9-10

God has saved us and has called us to a holy life, not because of any merit of ours but according to his own design— the grace held out to us in Christ Jesus before the world began but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior. He has robbed death of its power and has brought life and immortality into clear light through the gospel.

Responsory *All will be blessed in him * men and women of every race. All...*

All nations will acclaim his glory, * men and women of every race, glory... All...

C/M Seeing the star,* the wise men said to one another: this is the sign of a great King. Let us go and search for him, we will offer him gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh, alleluia.

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant Give glory to the Lord,* you sons of God, and adore him in his holy court.

Psalm 28

Commendation of the word of God

A voice from heaven said: "This is my beloved Son" (Mt 3:17).

O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendor.

The Lord's voice shattering the cedars,
the Lord shatters the cedars of Lebanon;
he makes Lebanon leap like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild-ox.

(The Lord's voice flashes flames of fire.)

The Lord's voice shaking the wilderness,
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh;
the Lord's voice rending the oak tree
and stripping the forest bare.

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: "Glory!"
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king forever.

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

Psalm 45

Our refuge and strength

*They shall call him Emmanuel, a name which means
'God is with us' (Mt 1:23).*

God is for us a refuge and strength,
a helper close at hand, in time of distress:
so we shall not fear though the earth should rock,
though the mountains fall into the depths of the sea,
even though its waters rage and foam,
even though the mountains be shaken by its waves.

The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

The waters of a river give joy to God's city,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within, it cannot be shaken;
God will help it at the dawning of the day.
Nations are in tumult, kingdoms are shaken:
he lifts his voice, the earth shrinks away.

The Lord of hosts is with us:
The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come, consider the works of the Lord
the redoubtable deeds he has done on the earth.
He puts an end to wars over all the earth;
the bow he breaks, the spear he snaps.
[He burns the shields with fire.]
"Be still and know that I am God,
supreme among the nations, supreme on the earth!"

The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Psalm 47

Thanksgiving for the people's salvation

*He carried me to the top of a very high mountain and showed
me the holy city Jerusalem (Rv 21:10).*

The Lord is great and worthy to be praised
in the city of our God.
His holy mountain rises in beauty,
the joy of all the earth.

Mount Zion, true pole of the earth,
the great King's city!
God, in the midst of it citadels,
has shown himself its stronghold.

For the kings assembled together,
together they advanced.
They saw; at once they were astounded;
dismayed, they fled in fear.

A trembling seized them there,
like the pangs of birth.
By the east wind you have destroyed
the ships of Tarshish.

As we have heard, so we have seen
in the city of our God,
in the city of the Lord of hosts
which God upholds for ever.

O God, we ponder your love
within your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name
reaches to the ends of the earth.

With justice your right hand is filled.
Mount Zion rejoices;
The people of Judah rejoice
at the sight of your judgments.

Walk through Zion, walk all 'round it;
count the number of its towers.
Review all its ramparts,
examine its castles,

that you may tell the next generation
that such is our God,
our God for ever and always.
It is He who leads us.

Ant Give glory to the Lord, you sons of God, and adore him in his holy court.

V/. The heavens proclaim the justice of God.

R/. And all peoples shall see his glory.

2nd Noct

Ant This one was born in her;* for the most high himself will establish her.

Psalm 86

Jerusalem, the mother of all nations
The Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother (Gal 4:26)

On the holy mountain is his city
cherished by the Lord,
The Lord prefers the gates of Zion
to all Jacob's dwellings.
Of you are told glorious things,
O city of God!

"Babylon and Egypt I will count
among those who know me;
Philistia, Tyre, Ethiopia,
these will be her children
and Zion shall be called 'Mother'
for all shall be her children."

It is he, the Lord Most High,
who gives each his place.
In his register of peoples he writes:
"These are her children"
and while they dance they will sing:
"In you all find their home."

Psalm 97

The Lord, victorious in judgment

*This psalm tells of the Lord's first coming and the faith of
all the peoples (St Athanasius).*

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord.

Let the sea and all within it, thunder;
the world, and all its peoples.
Let the rivers clap their hands
and the hills ring out their joy.

At the presence of the Lord: for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the world with justice
and the peoples with fairness.

Psalm 98

Holy is the Lord our God

*When you become like us, O Christ, who are
above the cherubim, you transformed the sinful
world (St Athanasius).*

The Lord is king; the peoples tremble.
He is throned on the cherubim; the earth quakes.
The Lord is great in Zion.

He is supreme over all the peoples.
Let them praise his name, so terrible and great.
he is holy, full of power.

You are a king who loves what is right;
you have established equity, justice and right;
you have established them in Jacob.

Exalt the Lord our God;
bow down before Zion, his footstool.
He the Lord is holy.

Among his priests were Aaron and Moses,
among those who invoked his name was Samuel.
They invoked the Lord and he answered.

To them he spoke in a pillar of cloud.
They did his will; they kept the law,
which he, the Lord, had given.

O Lord our God, you answered them.
For them you were a God who forgives;
yet you punished all their offenses.

Exalt the Lord our God;
bow down before his holy mountain
for the Lord our God is holy.

Ant This one was born in her; for the most high himself will establish her.

V/. The Lord will teach us his ways.

R/. And we will walk in his paths.

Lauds

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now manifested to us.

Psalm 94

An invitation to praise God

Encourage each other daily while it is still "today" (Heb 3:13).

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

A mighty God is the Lord,
a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his.
To him belongs the sea, for he made it
and the dry land shaped by his hands.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.

For forty years I was wearied of these people
and I said: 'Their hearts are astray,
these people do not know my ways.'
Then I took an oath in my anger:
'Never shall they enter my rest.'"

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now manifested to us.

Ant I Know * that the Lord is God, who is eternal.

Psalm 62

A soul thirsting for God

Whoever has left the darkness of sin, yearns for God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

Those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down to the depths of the earth.
They shall be put into the power of the sword
and left as the prey of the jackals.
But the king shall rejoice in God;
All that swear by him shall be blessed
for the mouth of liars shall be silenced.

Ant I Know that the Lord is God, who is eternal.

Ant II Jerusalem,* your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises over
you; all the nations shall walk in your light, alleluia.

Psalm 99

The joy of those entering the temple
The Lord calls those redeemed to sing songs of victory (St Athanasius).

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Go within his gates, giving thanks.
Enter his courts with songs of praise.
Give thanks to him and bless his name.

Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age.

Ant II Jerusalem, your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises over you; all the nations shall walk in your light, alleluia.

Ant III Seas and rivers,* bless the Lord; fountains, sing a hymn to the Lord, alleluia.

Canticle

DAN 3:58-90

Let all creatures praise the Lord
The Creator ... is blessed for ever (Rm 1:25).

Angels of the Lord,	bless the Lord.
You heavens,	bless the Lord.
All you waters above the heavens,	bless the Lord.
All you hosts of the Lord,	bless the Lord.
Sun and moon,	bless the Lord.
Stars of heaven,	bless the Lord.
Let the earth,	bless the Lord.
Mountains and hills,	bless the Lord.
Everything growing from the earth,	bless the Lord.
You springs,	bless the Lord.
Seas and Rivers,	bless the Lord.
You dolphins and all water creatures,	bless the Lord.
All you birds of the air,	bless the Lord.
All you beasts, wild and tame,	bless the Lord.
You sons of men,	bless the Lord.
O Israel,	bless the Lord.
Priests of Lord,	bless the Lord.
Servants of the Lord,	bless the Lord.
Spirits and souls of the just,	bless the Lord.
Holy men of humble heart,	bless the Lord.
Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael,	bless the Lord.

For he has delivered us from the nether world
and saved us from the power of death.
He has freed us from the raging flame
and delivered us from the fire.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
for his mercy endures forever.
Bless the God of gods, all you who fear the Lord;
praise him and give him thanks
because his mercy endures forever.

Ant III Seas and rivers, bless the Lord; fountains, sing a hymn to the Lord, alleluia.

Ant IV The star sparkled like a flame,* pointing the way to God, the King of Kings; the wise men saw the star and came offering gifts to the great King.

Psalm 150

Praise the Lord

Sing with mind and heart, that is: give glory to God with your whole being (Hesychius).

Alleluia!

Praise God in his holy place,
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his powerful deeds,
praise his surpassing greatness.

O praise him with sound of trumpet,
praise him with lute and harp.
Praise him with timbrel and dance,
praise him with strings and pipes.

O praise him with resounding cymbals,
praise him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes,
give praise to the Lord. Alleluia!

Ant IV The star sparkled like a flame, pointing the way to God, the King of Kings; the wise men saw the star and came offering gifts to the great King.

Reading

Is 7 - 10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Sion, your God is King! Hark! Your watchmen raise a cry, together they shout for joy, for they see directly, before their eyes, the Lord restoring Sion.

Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the Lord comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

Responsory

They will adore him, * all the kings of the earth. They...

Every race will serve him. * all the kings of the earth. Glory... They...

C/Z Today, the church is united to her heavenly bridegroom,* for Christ has washed away her sins in the Jordan; the wise men hurried with gifts to the royal nuptials; and the wedding guests rejoiced with the wine made from water, alleluia,

Midday

Ant I This mystery,* which has been hidden through all ages, is revealed to us today.

Ant II Christ Jesus has come,* bringing the joyful news: peace to those who were afar off, peace to those who are near.

Ant III I have raised you up * as a light for all the nations.

Ant IV He comes in splendor,* the King who is our peace.

Reading

Is 49:6

The Lord said to me: it is too little for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

V/. All nations will see your holy one.

R/. And every King your glory.

Vespers

Ant I Begotten of the Father * before the day star shone and time began, the Lord, our savior, appeared to the world.

Ant II Jerusalem, your light has come,* and the glory of the Lord arises over you; all the nations shall walk in your light, alleluia.

Ant III Opening their treasures,* the wise men offered to the Lord gold, frankincense and myrrh, alleluia.

Ant IV The star sparkled like a flame,* pointing the way to God, the King of Kings; the wise men saw the star and came offering gifts to the great King.

Reading

Ti 3:4-5

When the kindness and love of God our savior appeared, he saved us; not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of his mercy, he saved us through the baptism of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Responsory **All will be blessed in him * men and women of every race. All...
All nations will acclaim his glory, * men and women of every race, glory... All...**

C/M We celebrate a holy day notable for three mysteries:* today the star led the wise men to the manger; today wine is made from water for the wedding; today Christ willed to be baptize by John in the Jordan, that he may save us, alleluia.

Monday
(Following Epiphany)
Vigils

1st Noct

Ant Begotten of the Father * before the day star shone or time began, the Lord our Savior has appeared on earth.

**V/. Adore the Lord,
R/. In his holy place.**

2nd Noct

Ant Your light has come,* Jerusalem, the glory of your God has risen upon you.

**V/. The heavens proclaim the justice of God.
R/. And all peoples shall see his glory.**

Lauds

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now manifested to us.

Reading

Is 9:6

A child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him wonder-counselor, God-hero father-forever, prince of peace.

Responsory **They will adore him, * all the kings of the earth. They...
Every race will serve him, * all the kings of the earth. Glory... They...**

C/Z From the east * the wise men came to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures, they offered him precious gifts: gold for the great King , incense for the true God, myrrh for his burial, alleluia.

Midday

Reading

Is 12:5-6

Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement; let this be known through all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Sion, for great in your midst is the holy one of Israel.

V/. All nations will see your holy one.

R/. And every King your glory.

Vespers

Reading

2 Pt 1:3-4

The divine power of Christ has freely bestowed on us everything necessary for the life of genuine piety, through knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and power. By virtue of them he has bestowed on us the great and precious things he promised, so that through these you have fled a world corrupted by lust might become shares of the divine nature.

Responsory All will be blessed in him, * men and women of every race, All...

All nations will acclaim his glory, * men and women of every race. Glory... All...

C/M The wise men * were overjoyed at seeing the star; and entering the house, they presented to the Lord gold, frankincense myrrh.

Tuesday

(Following Epiphany)

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant Jerusalem,* all nations will walk in the brightness of your light, and kings in the splendor of your glory.

V/. The whole land adores and praises you.

R/. They sing songs to your name, O Lord.

2nd Noct

Ant From Tarshish and from the islands,* kings have come to offer gifts to the Lord our King.

V/. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.
R/. He sends his word to the earth.

Lauds

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now manifested to us.

Reading

Is 4:2-3

On that day, the branch of the Lord will luster and glory, and the fruit of the earth will be honor and splendor for the survivors of Israel. He who remains in Sion and he that is left in Jerusalem will be called holy; everyone marked down for life in Jerusalem.

Responsory **They will adore him, * all the kings of the earth.**
They...
Every race will serve him, * all the kings of the
earth. Glory... They...

C/Z The wise men presented to the Lord,* the Son of God, the great King, three gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh, alleluia.

Midday

Reading

Is 48:20

With shouts of joy proclaim this, make it known: publish it to the ends of the earth, and say, "the Lord has redeemed his servant Jacob."

V/. All nations will see your holy one.
R/. And every King your glory.

Vespers

Reading

Eph 2:3b-5

By nature we deserved God's wrath like the rest. But God is rich in mercy; because of his great love for us he brought us to life with Christ when we were dead in sin. By this favor you were saved.

Responsory **All will be blessed in him, * men and women**
of every race. All...
All nations will acclaim his glory, * men and
women of every race. Glory... All...

C/M You, O Christ,* the Light of lights, to whom the wise men offered gifts, appeared. Alleluia, alleluia.

Wednesday

(Following Epiphany)

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant The star burned like a flame,* pointing the way to God, the King of Kings.

V/. The peoples will walk in your light,

R/. And kings in the splendor of your dawn.

2nd Noct

Ant The wise men saw the sign,* and brought their gifts in homage to their great King.

V/. The Lord will teach us his ways,

R/. And we will walk in his paths.

Lauds

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now manifested to us.

Reading

Is 49 :8-9

In a time of favor I answer you, on a day of salvation I help you, to restore the land and allot the desolate heritage, saying to the prisoners: come out! To those in darkness: show yourselves!

Responsory

They will adore him, * all the kings of the earth. They...

Every race will serve him, * all the kings of the earth. Glory... They...

C/Z We have seen his star in the east,* and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Midday

Reading

Rv 21: 23-24

The holy city of Jerusalem had no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the lamb. The nations shall walk by its light: to it the kings of the earth shall bring their treasures.

V/. All nations will see your holy one.

R/. And every King your glory.

Vespers

Reading

Col 1:13-15

God rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved son. Through him we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creatures.

Responsory All will be blessed in him, * men and women of every race. All...

All nations will acclaim his glory, * men and women of every race. Glory... All...

C/M Herod questioned the wise men:* what sign have you seen of the newborn King? We saw a brilliant star, whose brightness filled the world.

Thursday

(Following Epiphany)

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant The King * who is our peace comes in splendor; he is supreme over all the kings of the earth.

V/. Come to adore him.

R/. Because he is the Lord our God.

2nd Noct

Ant A light has shone through the darkness * for the upright of heart; the Lord is gracious, merciful and just.

V/. The son of God came to give us understanding,

R/. That we may recognize the true God.

Lauds

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now manifested to us.

Reading

Is 62:11-12

say to daughter Sion, your savior comes! Here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. They shall be called the holy people, the redeemed of the Lord.

Responsory ***They will adore him, * all the kings of the earth. They...
Every race will serve him, * all the kings of the earth. Glory... They...***

C/Z Every people * shall come from afar, bearing gifts, alleluia, alleluia.

Midday

Reading

Is 9:2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown.

V/. *All nations will see your holy one.*
R/. *And every King your glory.*

Vespers

Reading

I Jn 1:5b-7

God is light; in him there is no darkness. If we walk in light, as he is in the light we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his son Jesus cleanses us from all sin.

Responsory ***All will be blessed in him, * men and women of every race. All...
All nations will acclaim his glory, * men and women of every race. Glory... All...***

C/M All from Sheba shall come,* bearing frankincense and gold, alleluia.

Friday

(Following Epiphany)

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant Worship the Lord,* all you his angels; adore him in his holy court.

V/. *In Christ was life,*
R/. *Life for the light of men.*

2nd Noct

Ant The wise men * adored the author of our salvation and offered him mystical gifts.

V/. He was the real light,
R/. Which gives light to every man.

Lauds

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now manifested to us

Reading

Is 45: 22-24

Turn to me and be safe, all you ends of the earth, for I am God; there is no other! By myself I swear, uttering my just decree and my unalterable word: to me every knee shall bend; by me every tongue shall swear.

Responsory **They will adore him, * all the kings of the earth.**
They...
Every race will serve him, * all the kings of the
earth. Glory... They...

C/Z All who once reviled you * will come and reverence the very imprint of your footsteps.

Midday

Reading

Jer 31:11-12

The Lord shall ransom Jacob, he shall redeem him from the hand of his conqueror. Shouting, they shall mount the heights of Sion, they shall come streaming to the Lord's blessings.

V/. All nations will see your holy one.
R/. And every King your glory.

Vespers

Reading

Rm 8:3-4

God sent his son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin-offering, thereby condemning sin in the flesh, so that the just demands of the law might be fulfilled in us who live, not according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

Responsory **All will be blessed in him, * men and women of**
every race. All...
All nations will acclaim his glory, * men and
women of every race. Glory... All...

C/M Being warned in a dream,* the wise men went back to their own country by another route.

Saturday

(Following Epiphany)

Vigils

1st Noct

Ant To Jerusalem * the kings of the earth shall bring their treasures.

V/. Christ was the real light,

R/. Which gives light to every man.

2nd Noct

Ant The Lord will arise upon you,* and nations shall come to your light.

V/. The savior of the world is now manifested,

R/. Whom the prophets have foretold.

Lauds

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, now manifested to us.

Reading

Wis. 7:26-27

Wisdom is the refulgence of eternal light, the spotless mirror of the power of God, the image of his goodness. And she, who is one, can do all things, and renews everything while herself enduring; and passing into holy souls from age to age, she produces friends of God and prophets.

Responsory

They will adore him, * all the kings of the earth. They...

Every race will serve him, * all the kings of the earth. Glory... They...

C/Z There was a wedding * at Cana in Galilee, and Jesus was there with his mother Mary.

Midday

Reading

Ez 34:11-12

I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark.

V/. All nations will see your holy one

R/. And every King your glory.

The Baptism of the Lord

(This feast is usually celebrated on the Sunday following the celebration of the solemnity of epiphany. If the latter solemnity is celebrated either on January 7th or 8th, then this feast is celebrated on the following Monday without the First Vespers.)

First Vespers

(Psalms from Second Vespers of Sunday I)

- Ant I He who comes after me * was before me; I am not fit to loosen his sandal straps.
- Ant II Jesus stood up and cried out:* if anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.
- Ant III You, who are thirsty,* come to the waters and seek the Lord, while he can be found, alleluia.
- Ant IV You will draw water * with joy at the fountain of the savior.

Reading

Act 10: 37-38

I take it you know what has been reported all over Judea about Jesus of Nazareth, beginning in galilee with the baptism Jn preached; of the way God anointed him with the holy spirit and power. He went about doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the devil, and God was with him.

Responsory ***It is he who came, * through water and blood.
It is...
Jesus Christ, our Lord, * through water and
blood. Glory... It is...***

- C/M Restoring the old man, the savior came to baptism, so that he may heal corrupted nature by water, vesting us with unblemished holiness.

Vigils

1st Noct

- Ant The voice of the Lord,* the God of majesty, resounds over the waters; may the Lord give strength to his people.

Psalm 28

Commendation of the word of God

A voice from heaven said: "This is my beloved Son" (Mt 3:17).

O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendor.

The Lord's voice shattering the cedars,
the Lord shatters the cedars of Lebanon;
he makes Lebanon leap like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild-ox.

(The Lord's voice flashes flames of fire.)

The Lord's voice shaking the wilderness,
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh;
the Lord's voice rending the oak tree
and stripping the forest bare.

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: "Glory!"
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king forever.

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

Psalm 45

Our refuge and strength

*They shall call him Emmanuel, a name which means
'God is with us' (Mt 1:23).*

God is for us a refuge and strength,
a helper close at hand, in time of distress:
so we shall not fear though the earth should rock,
though the mountains fall into the depths of the sea,
even though its waters rage and foam,
even though the mountains be shaken by its waves.

The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

The waters of a river give joy to God's city,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within, it cannot be shaken;
God will help it at the dawning of the day.
Nations are in tumult, kingdoms are shaken:
he lifts his voice, the earth shrinks away.

The Lord of hosts is with us:
The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come, consider the works of the Lord
the redoubtable deeds he has done on the earth.
He puts an end to wars over all the earth;
the bow he breaks, the spear he snaps.
[He burns the shields with fire.]
"Be still and know that I am God,
supreme among the nations, supreme on the earth!"

The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Psalm 46

The Lord, king of all

*He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and his
kingdom will have no end.*

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

He subdues people under us
and nations under our feet.
Our inheritance, our glory, is from him,
given to Jacob out of love.

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

The princes of the peoples are assembled
with the people of Abraham's God.
The rulers of the earth belong to God,
to God who reigns over all.

Ant The voice of the Lord, the God of majesty, resounds over the waters;
may the Lord give strength to his people.

V/. I saw water flowing out of the temple toward the east.

R/. And everyone of those who come to this water are saved.

2nd Noct

Ant I indeed baptize you with water,* but the one coming will baptize you in
the Holy Spirit and fire.

Psalm 86

Jerusalem, the mother of all nations

The Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother (Gal 4:26)

On the holy mountain is his city
cherished by the Lord,
The Lord prefers the gates of Zion
to all Jacob's dwellings.
Of you are told glorious things,
O city of God!

"Babylon and Egypt I will count
among those who know me;
Philistia, Tyre, Ethiopia,
these will be her children
and Zion shall be called 'Mother'
for all shall be her children."

It is he, the Lord Most High,
who gives each his place.
In his register of peoples he writes:
"These are her children"
and while they dance they will sing:
"In you all find their home."

Psalm 95

The Lord, king and judge of the whole world

*They were singing something like a new hymn in presence of the
Lamb (cf Rv 14:3).*

O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.

It was the Lord who made the heavens,
his are majesty and state and power
and splendor in his holy place.

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.

Bring an offering and enter his courts,
worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.

Proclaim to the nations: "God is king."
The world he made firm in its place;
he will judge the people in fairness.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy.

At the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth.
With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

Psalm 96

God's glory in judgement

*This psalm sings of world-wide salvation and the
faith of all nations in Christ (St Athanasius).*

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
the many coastlands be glad.
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;
his throne, justice and right.

A fire prepares his path;
it burns up his foes on every side.
His lightnings light up the world,
the earth trembles at the sight.

The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples his glory.

Let those who serve idols be ashamed,
those who boast of their worthless gods.
All you spirits, worship him.

Zion hears and is glad;
the people of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments, O Lord.

For you indeed are the Lord
most high above all the earth
exalted far above all spirits.

The Lord loves those who hate evil;
he guards the souls of his saints;
he sets them free from the wicked.

Light shines forth for the just
and joy for the upright of heart.
Rejoice, you just, in the Lord;
give glory to his holy name.

Ant I indeed baptize you with water, but the one coming will baptize you in
the Holy Spirit and fire.

V/. The springs of water are made holy,

R/. Since Christ appeared in glory over the whole land.

Lauds

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, the beloved Son in whom the Father is well
pleased.

Psalm 94

An invitation to praise God

Encourage each other daily while it is still "today" (Heb 3:13).

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

A mighty God is the Lord,
a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his.
To him belongs the sea, for he made it
and the dry land shaped by his hands.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.

For forty years I was wearied of these people
and I said: ‘Their hearts are astray,
these people do not know my ways.’
Then I took an oath in my anger:
‘Never shall they enter my rest.’

Invitatory Come to adore Christ, the beloved Son in whom the Father is well pleased.

Ant I The soldier baptizes his King,* the servant his master, John his savior; the waters of the Jordan stand still, the dove hovers, and the father’s voice is heard saying: “this is my Son.”

Psalm 62

A soul thirsting for God

Whoever has left the darkness of sin, yearns for God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

Those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down to the depths of the earth.
They shall be put into the power of the sword
and left as the prey of the jackals.
But the king shall rejoice in God;
All that swear by him shall be blessed
for the mouth of liars shall be silenced.

Ant I The soldier baptizes his King, the servant his master, John his savior;
the waters of the Jordan stand still, the dove hovers, and the father's
voice is heard saying: "this is my Son."

Ant II The springs of water * are made holy by Christ appearing in glory to the
whole world. Drink water from the fountain of the savior, for Christ our
God has now hallowed all creation.

Psalm 99

The joy of those entering the temple
The Lord calls those redeemed to sing songs of victory (St Athanasius).

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Go within his gates, giving thanks.
Enter his courts with songs of praise.
Give thanks to him and bless his name.

Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age.

Ant II The springs of water are made holy by Christ appearing in glory to the whole world, drink water from the fountain of the savior, for Christ our God has now hallowed all creation.

Ant III Seas and rivers,* bless the Lord; fountains sing a hymn to the Lord, alleluia.

Canticle

DAN 3:58-90

Let all creatures praise the Lord

The Creator ... is blessed for ever (Rm 1:25).

Angels of the Lord,	bless the Lord.
You heavens,	bless the Lord.
All you waters above the heavens,	bless the Lord.
All you hosts of the Lord,	bless the Lord.
Sun and moon,	bless the Lord.
Stars of heaven,	bless the Lord.
Let the earth,	bless the Lord.
Mountains and hills,	bless the Lord.
Everything growing from the earth,	bless the Lord.
You springs,	bless the Lord.
Seas and Rivers,	bless the Lord.
You dolphins and all water creatures,	bless the Lord.
All you birds of the air,	bless the Lord.
All you beasts, wild and tame,	bless the Lord.
You sons of men,	bless the Lord.
O Israel,	bless the Lord.
Priests of Lord,	bless the Lord.
Servants of the Lord,	bless the Lord.
Spirits and souls of the just,	bless the Lord.
Holy men of humble heart,	bless the Lord.
Hananiah, Azariah, Mishaël,	bless the Lord.

For he has delivered us from the nether world
and saved us from the power of death.
He has freed us from the raging flame
and delivered us from the fire.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
for his mercy endures forever.
Bless the God of gods, all you who fear the Lord;
praise him and give him thanks
because his mercy endures forever.

Ant III Seas and rivers, bless the Lord; fountains sing a hymn to the Lord, alleluia.

Ant IV Here is my Son,* my chosen one, whom I uphold, and upon whom I have put my spirit.

Psalm 150

Praise the Lord

Sing with mind and heart, that is: give glory to God with your whole being (Hesychius).

Alleluia!

Praise God in his holy place,
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his powerful deeds,
praise his surpassing greatness.

O praise him with sound of trumpet,
praise him with lute and harp.
Praise him with timbrel and dance,
praise him with strings and pipes.

O praise him with resounding cymbals,
praise him with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that lives and that breathes,
give praise to the Lord. Alleluia!

Ant IV Here is my Son, my chosen one, whom I uphold, and upon whom I have put my spirit.

Reading

Is 61:1-2a

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord.

Responsory **Christ, the son of the living God, have mercy on us. Christ...
You have appeared today, have mercy on us. Glory...
Christ...**

C/Z Christ is baptized,* the whole world is sanctified; he washes away our sins; and we are cleansed by water and the spirit.

Midday

- Ant I Come to adore him,* because He is the Lord our God.
- Ant II He will be glorified * in the universe, because he will be its peace.
- Ant III Lo, I send you forth * as the revealing light of the nations, so that you become my salvation to the ends of the earth.
- Ant IV John gave witness:* I saw the spirit coming down from heaven like a dove and resting on him.

Reading

Is 42:1

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations.

V/. My spirit will rest upon him.

R/. And he will announce to all nations the holiness of God.

Second Vespers

(Everything as in First Vespers except for the following)

- C/M A voice from heaven was heard to say:* this is my beloved son, in whom I am highly pleased. Listen to him, alleluia.