

THE OFFICE
of
NONE

Afternoon Prayer

December 8

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Ordinary Form



MARIAN SISTERS OF SANTA ROSA

2012

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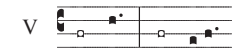
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READING

Ephesians 5 : 25-27

Christ loved the Church. He gave himself up for her to make her holy, to present to himself a glorious Church, holy and immaculate, without stain or wrinkle or anything of that sort.



VERSE AND RESPONSE

Cantor : Your Immaculate Conception, Virgin Mother of **God**.

All : Fills the whole world *with joy*.

PRAYER

STAND

Let us pray.

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, * that, as you preserved her from every stain, by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw, so, through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted into your presence. Through Christ our Lord.

All : Amen.

ACCLAMATION

L ET us praise the Lord. *R*: And give him thanks.

Psalm 127

Blessings of the Father's house

At the table of the Lord we are all God's children: Christ is the Father; the Church is the Mother; and we Christians are the children. In the name of the Church we are thankful for all Eucharistic graces, and plead for further favors. (The Corpus Christi Office has taught us to interpret this psalm eucharistically).

"May the Lord bless you from Sion," that is, from the Church (Arnobius).

Home blessings

Cantor : O blessed are those who fear the Lord * and walk in his ways!

All : By the labor of your hands you shall eat. * You will be happy and prosper;

Cantor : Your wife like a fruitful vine * in the heart of your house;

All : your children like shoots of the olive, * around your table,

Cantor : Indeed thus shall be blest * the man who fears the Lord.

Invocation

All : May the Lord bless you from Sion * all the days of your life!

Cantor : May you see your children's children / in a happy Jerusalem! * On Israel, peace!

Doxology

All : Glory to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit :

Cantor : as it was in the beginning, is now, * and will be for ever. Amen.

All : God created me in holiness; * he took my hand and kept me safe.

Dec. 8

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AT NONE

Virgin, in whose blessing every nature is blessed

The sky and the stars rejoice; the earth and the waters rejoice; day and night rejoice; all things subject to man, all things appointed for his service rejoice, O Mary, that you have been the means of restoring their lost beauty and filling them with new and ineffable grace. . . . These mighty things came to pass for our world through the blessed fruit of the womb of Mary, the blessed one.

— Saint Anselm

OPENING VERSE

STAND

Musical notation for the opening verse. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics: O God, come to my assistance. O Lord, make haste to help me. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

HYMN

Saint Ambrose. † 397

Rerum Deus, tenax vigor: (L.M.)

C : 1. O God, creation's secret force, Yourself unmoved, all motion's source, Who from the morn till evening's ray Through all its changes guide the day.

A : 2. Grant us, when this short life is past, The glorious evening that shall last; That, by a holy death attained, Eternal glory may be gained.

C : 3. O Jesus, Virgin-born, we raise, A : Our hearts to you in joyful praise, Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Ghost, for evermore. Amen.

ANTIPHON



Cantor : God created me in **holiness** ; *
he took my hand and kept *me safe*.

Psalm 125

Sow in tears, reap in joy

This psalm presents two splendid pictures : 1) Christ, the Sower on earth, in tears and sweat, sowing the seed by work, prayer and suffering; 2) the joyful harvest in heaven ; with sheaves heavy in merit, Christ comes to the heavenly harvest.

Accordingly, the psalm has two strophes : 1) Thanksgiving for salvation through Jesus (grace) ; 2) petition for final salvation in heaven (glory). The hymn pictures both the life of a Christian as an individual and the Church as pastor of souls.

It is one of the most moving psalms in the Psalter.

*Companions with him in suffering,
you will share his overflowing happiness (2 Corinthians 1 : 7).*

Our bonds are broken

Cantor : When the Lord delivered Sion from **bondage**, *
it seemed like *a dream*.

All : Then was our mouth filled with **laughter**, *
on our lips there *were songs*.

Cantor : The heathens themselves said : “ What **marvels** *
the Lord worked *for them* ! ”

All : What marvels the Lord worked for **us** ! *
Indeed we *were glad*.

Help us to rebuild

Cantor : Deliver us, O Lord, from our **bondage** *
as streams in *dry land*.

All : Those who are sowing in **tears** *
will sing when *they reap*,

Cantor : they go out, they go out, full of **tears**, *
carrying seed for *the sowing* :

All : They come back, they come back, full of **song**, *
carrying *their sheaves*.

SIT

Doxology

Cantor : Glory to the Father, and to the **Son**, *
and to the Holy **Spirit** :

All : as it was in the beginning, is **now**, *
and will be for ever. **Amen**.

Psalm 126

God’s blessing crowns the work

This psalm consists of two independent songs. The first one is a warning against too much activity and too little trust in God. The second pictures good children as a mighty blessing.

The Christian and the priest, as he prays, is warned never to ascribe success to his own doing; without God all his labor in God’s harvest is in vain. The blessing of children also has a spiritual sense : they are the souls won over to God, and personal merits : both will be powerful champions for us on the day of judgment.

You are God’s building (1 Corinthians 3 : 9).

All human struggle is in vain

Cantor : If the Lord does not build the **house**, *
in vain do its builders **labor** ;

All : if the Lord does not watch over the **city**, *
in vain does the watchman *keep vigil*.

Cantor : In vain is your earlier **rising**, *
your going later *to rest*,

All : you who toil for the bread you **eat** : *
when he pours gifts on his beloved while *they slumber*,

Unless God’s blessing comes to our aid

Cantor : Truly sons are a gift from the **Lord**, *
a blessing, the fruit of *the womb*.

All : Indeed the sons of **youth** *
are like arrows in the hand of *a warrior*.

Cantor : O the happiness of the **man** *
who has filled his quiver with *these arrows* !

All : He will have no cause for **shame** *
when he disputes with his foes in *the gateways*.

Doxology

Cantor : Glory to the Father, and to the **Son**, *
and to the Holy **Spirit** :

All : as it was in the beginning, is **now**, *
and will be for ever. **Amen**.