

MUSIC & LITURGY PLANNING GUIDE YEAR B

First Sunday of Advent to Christmas Day 2008

Dear Music & Liturgical Ministers:

On the pages that follow you will find suggestions for music for Masses from the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2008 through Christmas Day, 2008.

Expect another mailing with the information from Christmas through Ash Wednesday by mid-November.

I would first of all like to express my thanks to Sr. Marguerite Streifel, as well as all those who have assisted in the editorial process for this ongoing project in her years as the Director of the Office of Worship. It truly was, and is, a labor of love on your behalf and on behalf of the worshipping church of our Crookston diocese. I feel quite like Sir Isaac Newton who said, when asked about his scientific discoveries: "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." Indeed, if this resource in your hand is valuable, it is because of those who have come before me.

I have done my best to be thorough in cross-listing songs and music, but apologize for any that have been missed. I had also wished to include selections from OCP's *Heritage Missal*, but it was not yet available when this resource was being prepared.

I have also included some additional information about liturgies that I hope may prove useful in your personal and pastoral preparation. This includes things like the dates of second collections, special observances in the liturgy, etc.

At this point, there are no bilingual or Spanish music suggestions. If need arises that may become incorporated at a later time.

Finally, this resource is meant as a *guide* and an *aid*, not as a rule-book. Many parishes, no doubt, also have missalettes which contain psalms and other musical

suggestions that can be used. Also there are far more worthy pieces of music that are appropriate on any given Sunday or Feast. If there is a setting of a psalm or song known to your community not listed here, please feel free to use it.

Do be careful, though, that any resources are in keeping with Catholic theology. When in doubt, give me a call, or ask your pastor or pastoral minister.

Also, this document will be available to download and print from the Office of Worship-Liturgy website in case you need more copies or want to share with others, as soon as our website is updated. Go to www.crookston.org, find the Worship-Liturgy page and then the Music Planning Guide.

~Rev. Augie Gothman

Key to Abbreviations

BB----Breaking Bread (2009 O.C.P.)

GC-----Gather Comprehensive (1994 G.I.A.)

GCII-----Gather Comprehensive, Second edition (2004 G.I.A.)

MI-----Today's Music Issue (2009 O.C.P.)

SC-----Songs for Celebration (1984 Crookston)

The Season of Advent

Advent inaugurates the beginning of the liturgical year; it is the four-week period during which the Church prepares to celebrate Christmas. Advent has a twofold character. In addition to being a time of preparation for the commemoration of Jesus' first coming into the world, it is also directed to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is a season of joyful and spiritual expectation.¹

General Introduction to Music for Advent and Christmas²

The two halves of these lovely seasons pass so quickly, yet they are full of such rich images that give powerful expression to the message of God's coming among us.

Music planners need to approach the two parts of Advent-Christmas together, while taking care to

¹ United States Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops, Committee on Pastoral Practices. *Penitential Practices for Today's Catholics*. November 12, 2000. www.usccb.org/dpp/penitential.htm

² www.npm.org/Planning/yearb/general.html

respect the integrity of each part. The music of Advent should be characterized by a simplicity that gives way to building excitement and expectation. The music of Christmas should be full of jubilation in the face of God's presence in our ordinary flesh-and-blood existence, and our jubilation should continue through the entire season.

Seasons with a focus on Mary

Woven through the two parts of these seasons are major Marian feasts, particularly; in Advent, two celebrations important to the church in the Americas: the *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*—the title under which Mary is the patroness of the United States—and the *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*—the title under which Mary is patroness of the all the Americas. And, of course, the New Year begins with the *Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*—the ancient title that links Mary to the whole celebration of the incarnation. Be sure to plan appropriately for these feasts so that they are celebrated as part of the seasons in which they shine.

Music for the Entrance Rites during Advent

The scriptures of the Advent Season call us both to urgent expectation and to patient waiting. As we enter into the liturgy of each Sunday of Advent, the music should help to prepare the hearts of the assembly to hear and respond to the powerful proclamation of the Lord's coming.

The gathering rites during Advent might take the form of a litany, as in "Advent Gathering" (Cooney/Daigle, GIA). A song with a congregational refrain, such as "Christ, Be Our Light" (OCP), might also be used, with the choir or cantor singing the verses if it is not well known to the people. A sung version of Penitential Rite C would be appropriate throughout the Advent Season.

Remember, the *Gloria* is omitted on the Sundays and weekdays of Advent, but is sung on the *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*.

If the Advent wreath will be lit during Mass every Sunday of Advent, it should be done simply. The sense of expectation and preparation is heightened by a simpler than usual entrance rite. See the *Book of Blessings* for directions for the blessing and lighting of the Advent wreath at the Sunday liturgy.

Music for the Entrance Rites during Christmas

The entrance rites of the Christmas Season should be filled with festive and joyful singing. The *Gloria* is sung on all the Sundays and feasts of Christmas. Use a sturdy musical version of the *Gloria* or a setting composed especially for this season.

Common Psalms for Advent

Advent Common Psalms

Ps 25:4-5. 8-9.10 R. *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

Ps 85:9-14 R. *Let us see, O Lord, your mercy.*

November 29/30, 2008 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Isa 63:16b-17,19b; 64:2-7

Psalm (79)80 R. *Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved*

I Cor. 1:3-9

Mark 13:33-37 You do not know when the master of the house is coming.

~The themes of Second Coming, night, darkness and vigilance are prevalent in today's liturgy. Somber and solemn music may help to point out this chilling reminder of the end of the world and our own destiny.

Gathering Song:

Creator of the Stars of Night BB 58/GC 337/GCII 334 /SC 62

People of the Night GC 340/GCII 346

Redeemer Lord SC 208

Wake, Awake For Night Is Flying (*Wachet auf*) BB 51 / GC 335 / SC 257

Comfort, Comfort, O My People BB 54/GC 326 / GCII 331 / SC 61

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 80: *Lord, make us turn to you*

Respond and Acclaim: p.4

Psalms for the Church Year, Vol II, p.25

GC 75/GCII 47 or:

Advent Common Psalms

Ps 25:4-5. 8-9.10 R. *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

BB & MI 761, 762, 763/GC 36/GCII 26

Ps 85:9-14 R. *Let us see, O Lord, your mercy.*

Respond and Acclaim: pp.6, 110.

BB & MI 791, 792

Preparation of Gifts:

Silence, instrumental, choral selection OR:

Be Light for Our Eyes GC 509/GCII 511

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns BB 48 / GC 320/GCII 347

Walk in the Reign GC 319/GCII 325

A Time Will Come For Singing SC 2

Communion Songs:

Life Giving Bread, Saving Cup GC 822/GCII 821
 Bread for the World BB 344/GC 827/MI 344
 Seed, Scattered and Sown BB 343/GC 834/GCII 830
 Eat This Bread BB 345/GC 838/GCII 806/MI 345

Sending Forth:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel BB 36/GC 317/
 GC II 323/ SC 170
 On Jordan's Bank BB 38/GC 321, 322/GCII 344/
 SC 183
 Come, O Long Awaited Savior (*Stuttgart*) BB 37/
 GC 323/SC 54

People, Look East BB 47/GC 318/GCII 337/SC 195

Notes on Immaculate Conception:

In 2008, December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, will fall on a Monday. In accord with the USCCB decision of November 1991, confirmed by the Apostolic See in July 1992, the precept to attend Mass on this Solemnity is maintained, even when it falls on a Saturday or Monday. *Therefore, Monday, December 8, 2008, will be a holy day of obligation for the faithful in the United States.*

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception begins with Evening Prayer I on Sunday, December 7, and concludes with the celebration of Evening Prayer II of the Solemnity on December 8th.

However, in light of the fact that Sunday evening Masses are a common occurrence in some parishes of the diocese, the Eucharist celebrated on the evening of Sunday, December 7th, may be either the Mass of the Sunday or of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, provided that this is made clear to the faithful in advance.

In case anyone asks, the precept to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy days of obligation means we attend Mass twice (no two-for-one deals).

Remember, the Gloria is omitted on the Sundays and weekdays of Advent, but is sung on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

December 6/7, 2008 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

Psalm (84)85 R. *Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.*

II Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8 Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight

~Much of the "Advent" section of Handel's *Messiah* is taken from the beautifully soothing and consoling

passage of the prophet Isaiah heard in today's first reading.

Gathering Song:

On Jordan's Bank BB 38/GC 321, 322/
 GCII 344/SC 183
 Every Valley SC 68
 God of All People GC 331/GCII 349
 Ready the Way (*B. Hurd*) BB 61
 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People BB 54/
 GC 326/GCII 331/SC 61
 Creator of the Stars of Night BB 58/GC 337
 GCII 334/SC 62

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 85: Lord, let us see your kindness
Respond and Acclaim: pp. 6, 110/BB&MI 791, 792
Psalms for the Church Year, Vol I, pg.8
 GC 79, 80 or:

Advent Common Psalms

Ps 25:4-5. 8-9.10 R. *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

BB&MI 761, 762, 763/GC 36/GCII 26

Ps 85:9-14 R. *Let us see, O Lord, your mercy.*

Respond and Acclaim: pp.6, 110.

BB & MI 791, 792

Preparation of Gifts:

Silence, instrumental, choral selection OR:

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns BB 48/
 GC 320/GCII 347

Like A Shepherd GC 325/GCII 332/SC140

Rise Up, Jerusalem SC 209

People of the Night GC 340/GCII 346

Communion Songs:

Now We Remain BB 506/GC 694/GCII 696/MI 506

Look Beyond BB 337/GC 843/GCII 837/MI 337

Wait for the Lord GC 332/GCII 340

You Are Our Living Bread GC 819/SC 280

Sending Forth:

City of God BB 378/GC 678/GCII 663/MI 378/
 SC 48

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns BB 48/
 GC 320/GCII 347

A Voice Cries Out BB 43/GCII 343/SC 3

Soon and Very Soon BB 605/GC 770/GCII 758/MI 605

Monday December 8, 2008 - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (ALWAYS a Holy Day of Obligation)

~That the conception of the Mary by Saint Ann was immaculate, that is, free from original sin, is not found in the Scriptures; it is part of the Tradition, and a mystery that derives from her role as the future mother of the Lord; the *Theotokos*.

Readings:

Genesis 3:9-15,20

Psalm 98 R. *Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous deeds.*

Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12

Luke 1:26-38 Mary, you have found favor with God.

Gathering Song:

O Holy Mary BB 715/MI 715

Immaculate Mary BB 208/GC 790/GCII 783
SC 119

Sing We of the Blessed Mother GC 786/
GCII 776

any setting of the Cantic of Mary / *Magnificat*
e.g. /GC 14, 146, 534, 788, / GCII 13, 83,84/SC 37, 38

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 98: Sing To the Lord a New Song

Respond and Acclaim: p. 8

Psalms for the Church Year, Vol I, pg. 12

GC 95/GCII 55 or:

Advent Common Psalms

Ps 25:4-5. 8-9.10 R. *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

BB & MI 761, 762, 763/GC 36/GCII 26

Ps 85:9-14 R. *Let us see, O Lord, your mercy.*

Respond and Acclaim: pp.6, 110.

BB & MI 791, 792

Preparation of Gifts:

Silence, instrumental, choral selection OR:

I Am the Servant of the Lord SC 106

Hail Mary, Gentle Woman BB 708/
GC 782/GCII 779/MI 708/SC 93

I Sing A Maid GC 781/GCII 777

Communion Songs:

We Come to Your Feast GC 850

Gift of Finest Wheat BB 322/GC 815 MI 322/
SC 80

You Are Our Living Bread GC 819/ SC 280

Pan De Vida BB 341/GC 848/GCII 811/
MI 341

Sending Forth:

Sing of Mary BB 709/GC 783/GCII 778/MI 709
SC 222

All the Ends of the Earth BB 564/GC 520/
GCII 526/MI 564/SC 11

any setting of the Cantic of Mary / *Magnificat*
e.g. BB & MI 711,831,832,834/GC 14, 145,146,534,788,
GCII 13, 83,84/ *Respond &*
Acclaim: pg 12/SC 37,38,106

December 13/14, 2008 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(B)

~Another Sunday featuring John the Baptist, but this time from the perspective of John's Gospel: "He was not the light, but came to testify to the light."

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8,19-28

Special Collection Today: Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR).

The Retirement Fund for Religious has generated an unprecedented response from U.S. Catholics. Since 1988, the RFR has distributed over \$426 million. Ninety-six percent of the donations are invested for present and future retirement needs of the elderly members (religious sisters, brothers, and religious order priests) of the over 500 religious institutes in the United States. Today, nearly 60,000 religious men and women are over the age of 60.

For more information, visit www.usccb.org/nrro

Gathering Song:

On Jordan's Bank BB 38/GC 321, 322/GCII 344/
SC 183

Come, O Long Awaited Savior (*Stuttgart*) BB 37/
GC 323/SC 54

Christ, Be Our Light BB 529/GCII 512/MI 529

People, Look East BB 47/GC 318/GCII 337/SC 195

O Come, O Come Emmanuel BB 36/GC 317/
GC II 320/SC 170

Responsorial Psalm:

Luke 1: *Magnificat* - My soul rejoices in my God

Respond & Acclaim: pg 12

Psalms for the Church Year, Vol II, pg.57

any setting of the Cantic of Mary / *Magnificat*
e.g. BB & MI 711,831,832,834/GC 14,145,146,534,788,
GCII 13, 83,84/SC 37,38,106 or:

Advent Common Psalms

Ps 25:4-5. 8-9.10 R. *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

BB & MI 761, 762, 763/GC 36/GCII 26

Ps 85:9-14 R. *Let us see, O Lord, your mercy.*

Respond and Acclaim: pp.6, 110.

Preparation of Gifts:

Silence, instrumental, choral selection OR:

He Has Anointed Me SC 97

Come Now, Almighty King BB 721/GC 475 /
MI 721

By Name I Have Called You (*Landry*) SC 36

Come My Way, My Truth, My Life GC 577/
SC 51

Walk in the Reign GC 319/GCII 325

Communion Songs:

Song of the Body of Christ BB 319/GC 847/
GCII 807/MI 319

Christ, Be Our Light BB 529/GCII 512/MI 529

Now in this Banquet GC 833/GCII 825
We Come to Your Feast GC 850/GCII 814
Gift of Finest Wheat BB 322/GC 815 MI 322/
SC 80
God of Day and Darkness BB 588/GC 761/MI 588

Sending Forth:

City of God BB 378/GC 678/GCII 663/MI 378/
SC 48
The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns BB 48/
GC 320/GCII 347

any setting of the Cantic of Mary / *Magnificat* e.g.
BB & MI 711,831,832,834/GC 14,145,146,534,788,
GCII 13, 83,84/SC 37,38,106

People of the Night GC 340/GCII 346

**December 20/21, 2008 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT (B)**

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-11,16.

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38 *Do not fear, Mary, you have found favor with
God.*

Gathering Song:

The Coming of Our God SC 236

Christ, Be Our Light BB 529/GCII 512/MI 529

Come, O Long Awaited Savior (*Stuttgart*) BB 37/
GC 323/SC 54

O Come, Divine Messiah BB 49/GC 333/GCII 333

Savior of the Nations, Come GC 334/GCII 348

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 89: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Respond and Acclaim: pp.14

Psalms for the Church Year, Vol II, pg.27

BB & MI 793/GC 82/GCII 49 or:

Advent Common Psalms

Ps 25:4-5. 8-9.10 *R. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

BB & MI 761, 762, 763/GC 36/GCII 26

Ps 85:9-14 *R. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy.*

Respond and Acclaim: pp.6, 110.

BB & MI 791, 792

Preparation of Gifts:

Silence, instrumental, choral selection OR:

Come My Way, My Truth, My Life GC 577/
SC 51

Word of God Come Down on Earth SC 276

Lord this is the People (Ps. 24) BB & MI 760

Come Now, Almighty King BB 721/GC 475 /
MI 721

Communion Songs:

Christ, Be Our Light BB 529/GCII 512/MI 529

Now in this Banquet GC 833/GCII 825

We Come to Your Feast GC 850/GCII 814

You Are Our Living Bread GC 819/ SC 280

Gift of Finest Wheat BB 322/GC 815 MI 322/
SC 80

Sending Forth:

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming BB 85/GC 368/
GCII 373 SC 141

The Coming of Our God SC 236

O Come, O Come Emmanuel BB 36/GC 317/
GC II 320/SC 170

People, Look East BB 47/GC 318/GCII 337/SC 195

Soon and Very Soon BB 605/GC 770/GCII 758/
MI 605

The Liturgical Year: Seasonal Decorations

During the liturgical year the Church unfolds the whole mystery of Christ, from his incarnation and birth through his passion, death, and resurrection to his ascension, the day of Pentecost, and the expectation of his coming in glory. In its celebration of these mysteries, the Church makes these sacred events present to the people of every age.³

³ *Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture, and Worship, Guidelines of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.* Issued by NCCB/USCC (Now USCCB), November 16, 2000, no. 122. cf. *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, no. 102: *Holy Mother Church is conscious that she must celebrate the saving work of her divine Spouse by devoutly recalling it on certain days throughout the course of the year. Every week, on the day which she has called the Lord's day, she keeps the memory of the Lord's resurrection, which she also celebrates once in the year, together with His blessed passion, in the most solemn festival of Easter.*

Within the cycle of a year, moreover, she unfolds the whole mystery of Christ, from the incarnation and birth until the ascension, the day of Pentecost, and the expectation of blessed hope and of the coming of the Lord.

Recalling thus the mysteries of redemption, the Church opens to the faithful the riches of her Lord's powers and merits, so that these are in some way made present for all time, and the faithful are enabled to lay hold upon them and become filled with saving grace.

Plans for seasonal decorations should include other areas besides the sanctuary. Decorations are *intended to draw people to the true nature of the mystery being celebrated rather than being ends in themselves*. Natural flowers, plants, wreaths and fabric hangings, and other seasonal objects can be arranged to enhance the primary liturgical points of focus.⁴ The use of living flowers and plants, rather than artificial greens, serves as a reminder of the gift of life God has given to the human community. Planning for plants and flowers should include not only the procurement and placement but also the continuing care needed to sustain living things.⁵

Objects such as the Advent wreath, the Christmas crib, and other traditional seasonal appointments proportioned to the size of the space and to the other furnishings can enhance the prayer and understanding of the parish community.⁶

These seasonal decorations are maintained throughout the entire liturgical season. Since the Christmas season begins with the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and ends with the Baptism of the Lord, the placement and removal of Christmas decorations should coincide with these times.⁷

The altar should always remain clear and free-standing, not walled in by massive floral displays or the Christmas crib, and pathways in the narthex, nave, and sanctuary should remain clear.⁸

Placement and Blessing of a Christmas Manger/ Nativity Scene/Creche'

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to Saint Francis of Assisi who made the Christmas creche or manger for Christmas eve of 1223. However, as early as the fourth century representations of the nativity of the Lord were painted as wall decorations depicting not only the infancy narrative accounts of Christ's birth, but also the words of the prophets Isaiah and Habakkuk taken to mean that the Messiah would be born in the midst of animals in a manger.⁹

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene, according to pastoral circumstances, may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another more suitable time. The blessing may be given during a celebration of the word of God, during Mass, or even during another service, (e.g., a carol service).¹⁰

If the manger is set up in the church, it must not be placed in the *presbyterium* [i.e. the sanctuary]. A place should be chosen that is suitable for prayer and devotion and is easily accessible by the faithful.¹¹

The practice of placing the manger under or on the altar is not proper since it devalues the nature of the altar and makes it only a setting for the crib.¹² The altar should always remain clear and free-standing, not walled in by massive floral displays or the Christmas crib, and pathways in the narthex, nave, and sanctuary should remain clear.¹³

Music for the Entrance Rites during Christmas

The entrance rites of the Christmas Season should be filled with festive and joyful singing. The *Gloria* is sung on all the Sundays and feasts of Christmas. Use a

⁴ BLS, no 124.

⁵ BLS, no 129.

⁶ BLS, no 128. cf. *Book of Blessings*, nos. 1512, 1544.

⁷ BLS, no 125.

⁸ BLS, no 124.

⁹ *Book of Blessings (BB)*, 1541.

¹⁰ *BB*, 1542-3.

¹¹ *BB*, 1544.

¹² *BCL Newsletter* Vol. XXV (1989) October/November as found in: *Thirty Five Years of the BCL Newsletter 1965-2000*. (Washington, DC: USCCB Publications, 2004), p.1177.

¹³ *Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture, and Worship, Guidelines of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops*. Issued by NCCB/USCC (Now USCCB), November 16, 2000. no. 124.

sturdy musical version of the *Gloria* or a setting composed especially for this season.

DECEMBER 24, VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS The Vigil readings focus on Jesus' connection to the history of Israel. These readings are used at Mass celebrated on the evening of December 24. These texts may also be used on Christmas Day along with one or another of the three sets of readings for Christmas.

Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5.

Responsorial Psalm Vigil Mass: Ps (88) 89 - *Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

Responsorial Psalms for Christmas

Vigil: BB 793/GC 82/ GCII 49/MI 793/ *Respond & Acclaim:* 16

Midnight: BB 798,800/GC 90-91/GCII 52 / *Respond & Acclaim* 18/MI 798,800

Dawn: GC 94/ *Respond & Acclaim* 20

Day: BB 803-4/ GC 95/ *Respond & Acclaim* 22/MI 803-4 or:

Christmas Season Common Psalm: Ps 98

BB 803-4/ GC 95/ *Respond & Acclaim* 22/MI 803-4

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25.

Matthew 1:1-25. The "family record" of Jesus Christ connects him to all of Israelite history, schematized in three groups. It also connects Jesus to non-Israelite history through the women in this list, who were all non-Jews (except Mary).

Other songs for the Liturgy - .

Today's liturgies should be full of the sound of familiar carols, hymns and songs.

~For the Masses at Midnight and at Dawn, choose carols that evoke the images of the Christmas story: Bethlehem, manger, angels, shepherds.

~For the Mass during the Day, look for hymns and songs that proclaim that Christ is born this day, as the Word made flesh continues to dwell among us.

Christmas Carols, Hymns, and Songs

BB: 75-104

GC: 341 - 372

GCII: 351 - 380

SC: 17, 18, 43, 91, 96, 125, 141, 166, 169, 176, 185, 215, 225, 238, 242, 258, 271, 276

DECEMBER 25, SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS - MASS AT 'MIDNIGHT'

The midnight readings are among the most familiar texts of Jewish and Christian revelation—at least to a

Christian audience. They focus our attention on the meaning of the birth of Jesus.

The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

1. The *Roman Martyrology* for Christmas contains a formal announcement of the birth of Christ in the style of a proclamation. It begins with creation and relates the birth of the Lord to the major events and personages of sacred and secular history. The particular events contained in the proclamation help to situate the birth of Jesus in the context of salvation history.

2. *The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ* may be sung or proclaimed after the greeting and introduction of the Christmas Midnight Mass. The *Gloria* and opening prayer immediately follow the proclamation.

3. According to circumstances, the proclamation may be sung or recited at the ambo by a deacon, cantor, or reader.

Readings: Isaiah 9:1-6.

Responsorial Psalm Mass at Midnight: Ps (95) 96 *Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord*

This psalm describes a kind of liturgy in which the whole world sings the praise of God, creator and redeemer. The refrain applies this praise to Christ.

Responsorial Psalms for Christmas

Vigil: BB 793/GC 82/ GCII 49/MI 793/ *Respond & Acclaim:* 16

Midnight: BB 798,800/GC 90-91/GCII 52 / *Respond & Acclaim* 18/MI 798,800

Dawn: GC 94/ *Respond & Acclaim* 20

Day: BB 803-4/ GC 95/ *Respond & Acclaim* 22/MI 803-4 or:

Christmas Season Common Psalm: Ps 98

BB 803-4/ GC 95/ *Respond & Acclaim* 22/MI 803-4 Titus 2:11-14.

Luke 2:1-14. Probably the most familiar part of the Gospel. Luke affirms the tradition that Jesus was born at Bethlehem, but his important point is to explain what this birth means. The birth is retold simply: "She gave birth to her first-born son . . ." The focus is on the angel's message and the shepherds' response.

Other songs for the Liturgy - .

Today's liturgies should be full of the sound of familiar carols, hymns and songs.

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Christmas Carols, Hymns, and Songs

BB: 75-104

GC: 341 - 372

GCII: 351 - 380

SC: 17, 18, 43, 91, 96, 125, 141, 166, 169, 176, 185, 215, 225,238,242, 258, 271, 276

DECEMBER 25, SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS - MASS AT 'DAWN'

These texts challenge us to respond to the meaning of Jesus' birth by prayer, praise, and action.

Isaiah 62:11-12.

Responsorial Psalm Mass at Dawn: Ps (96) 97 *A Light will shine on us this day; the Lord is born for us*

The liturgy in which the whole world sings God's praises (see psalm for Mass at Midnight) is given a slightly different twist through the refrain used at dawn. While it heralds the physical coming of the new day, it also looks forward to the "day of the Lord" as a day of hope, because "Christ is born for us."

Responsorial Psalms for Christmas

Vigil: BB 793/GC 82/ GCII 49/MI 793/ *Respond & Acclaim*: 16

Midnight: BB 798,800/GC 90-91/GCII 52 / *Respond & Acclaim* 18/MI 798,800

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Christmas Season Common Psalm: Ps 98

BB 803-4/ GC 95/ *Respond & Acclaim* 22/MI 803-4

Titus 3:4-7.

Luke 2:15-20. The story of the shepherds' response (see Mass at Midnight) is continued in action, as they come to Bethlehem, see, and make "known the message," which leads them into prayer and praise. Mary also sees and "reflects on" all these things in a kind of contemplation.

Other songs for the Liturgy - .

Today's liturgies should be full of the sound of familiar carols, hymns and songs.

~For the Masses at Midnight and at Dawn, choose carols that evoke the images of the Christmas story: Bethlehem, manger, angels, shepherds.

~For the Mass during the Day, look for hymns and songs that proclaim that Christ is born this day, as the Word made flesh continues to dwell among us.

Christmas Carols, Hymns, and Songs

BB: 75-104

GC: 341 - 372

GCII: 351 - 380

SC: 17, 18, 43, 91, 96, 125, 141, 166, 169, 176, 185, 215, 225,238,242, 258, 271, 276

DECEMBER 25, SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS - MASS 'DURING THE DAY' The meaning of the birth of Jesus is a present reality. God's Word is at work in the world now.

Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10.

Psalm for Mass during the Day: Ps (97) 98 *All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God*

This enthronement psalm recalls God's saving deeds to Israel and calls on all the nations to sing God's praise.

Responsorial Psalms for Christmas

Vigil: BB 793/GC 82/ GCII 49/MI 793/ *Respond & Acclaim*: 16

Midnight: BB 798,800/GC 90-91/GCII 52 / *Respond & Acclaim* 18/MI 798,800

Dawn: GC 94/ *Respond & Acclaim* 20

Day: BB 803-4/ GC 95/ *Respond & Acclaim* 22/MI 803-4 or:

Christmas Season Common Psalm: Ps 98

BB 803-4/ GC 95/ *Respond & Acclaim* 22/MI 803-4

Hebrews 1:1-6.

John 1:1-18. The Prologue of the Fourth Gospel sees Jesus as the "Word," the true meaning of all creation and all history, whose presence among us gives us access to the meaning of God's plan for the universe.

Other songs for the Liturgy - .

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