

THE WORD OF THE LORD : TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

At the Solemn Eucharist at 11 o'clock

CHRISTMAS DAY

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52.7-10

HOW BEAUTIFUL upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord

R/. Thanks be to God

PSALM: 98 1-6—*Cantate Domino; Tone I.2*



- 1 O SING unto the Lord a new song : for he hath done mar-vel-löus things.
- 2 With his own right hand, and with his ho-ly arm : hath he gotten him-self the vic-to-ry.
- 3 The Lord hath declared his sal-va-tion :
his righteousness hath he openly shown in the sight of the nä-tiöns.
- 4 He hath remembered his mercy and his faithfulness toward the house of Is-ra-el :
and all the ends of the world have seen the salva-tion of öür Göd.
- 5 Show yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands : sing, re-joice, and gïve thänks.
- 6 Praise the Lord upon the harp : sing to the harp with a psalm of thanks-gïv-ïng.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1.1-12

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto

which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: they shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

The word of the Lord

R/. Thanks be to God

SEQUENCE HYMN

FROM EAST TO WEST, from shore to shore,
Let ev'ry heart awake and sing
The Holy Child whom Mary bore,
The CHRIST, the everlasting King.

2 Behold! the world's Creator wears
The form and fashion of a slave;
Our very flesh our Maker shares,
His fallen creature, man, to save.

3 For this how wondrously he wrought!
A maiden, in her lowly place,
Became, in ways beyond all thought,
The chosen vessel of his grace.

4 She bowed her to the angel's word
Declaring what the FATHER willed,
And suddenly the promised LORD
That pure and hallowed temple filled.

5 He shrank not from the oxen's stall,
 He lay within the manger bed,
 And he whose bounty feedeth all
 At Mary's breast himself was fed.

6 And while the angels in the sky
 Sang praise above the silent field,
 To shepherds poor, the LORD most high,
 The one great Shepherd was revealed.

7 All glory for that blessed morn
 To GOD the FATHER ever be,
 All praise to thee, O Virgin-born,
 And praise, blest SPIRIT, unto thee. Alleluia.

CHRISTE REDEMPTOR
 Melody adapted by Michael Praetorius 1571-1621

Latin, Caelius Sedulius c450
 Tr John Ellerton 1826-93

GOSPEL: John 1.1-14
 R. *Glory be to thee, O Lord*

IN THE BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of Christ
 R. *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

