

Holy Innocents – December 28 – Evening Prayer

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

A candle may be lighted.

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Joyous light of glory:
**of the immortal Father;
heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.**
**We have come to the setting of the sun,
and we look to the evening light.**
We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.
O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory.

A hymn, canticle, or psalm may be sung or spoken.

Hymn: 969 Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band

LSB 969

1 Sweet flow - 'rets of the mar - tyr band, Plucked by the
2 First vic - tims for the in - car - nate Lord, A ten - der
3 Ah, what a - vailed King Her - od's wrath? He could not
△ 4 O Lord, the vir - gin - born, we sing E - ter - nal
ty - rant's ruth - less hand Up - on the thresh - old
flock to feel the sword; Be - side the al - tar's
stop the Sav - ior's path. A - lone, while oth - ers
praise to You, our King, Whom with the Fa - ther
of the morn, Like rose - buds by a tem - pest torn;
rud - dy ray, With palm and crown, you seemed to play.
mur - dered lay, In safe - ty Christ is borne a - way.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, alt.

Tune: Daniel Vetter, d. 1721

Text and tune: Public domain

Jeremiah 31:15–17

Jeremiah 31:15–17

¹⁵Thus says the LORD:
“A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;

she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.”

¹⁶Thus says the LORD:

“Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work,
declares the LORD,
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

¹⁷There is hope for your future,
declares the LORD,
and your children shall come back to their own country.”

Revelation 14:1-5

Revelation 14:1-5

¹Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

Matthew 2:13-18

Matthew 2:13-18

¹³When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

A portion of the Small or Large Catechism may be read.

Lord’s Prayer

**☩ Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayer:

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for the evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our constant companion on the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope among us, that we may recognize You as You are revealed in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread. Grant this for Your name's sake.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgments

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