Monday, December 25, 2023: The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

(Christmas Day)

Theme: “Enlarging the Borders of Flesh”

Collect of the Day:

Almighty God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Himself, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made Your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom with You and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. ***Amen.***

Old Testament Proclamation: Isaiah 9: 2-7

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 98

New Testament Proclamation: Titus 2: 11-14

Gospel Proclamation: John 1: 1-14

Gradual Verse:

We have beheld, and bear witness, and have written to you, that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

Prayers of the People Option I:

You may use the following:

Deacon: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ’s Church, and for the world.

Minister: Almighty Father, we lift before You Your holy catholic Church:

*People: That You would lead us in truth, baptize us in love, and unite us in spirit.*

Minister: We pray for her leaders, especially Bishop Craig and Bishop Ariel:

*People: That they may with one voice minister Your life to Your people and the world.*

Minister: We lift before You the people of this community, this nation, and the world:

*People: That we may honor one another and serve the common good.*

Minister: We pray for our governmental leaders, especially President Marcos:

*People: That You would lead them in the ways of justice and peace.*

Minister: We lift before You all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit:

*People: That You would send Your comfort and grace upon them.*

Minister: Give to the departed eternal rest:

*People: Grant that we may share with them in Your everlasting Kingdom.*

Deacon: And we lift before You this parish, in the manner in which You have given unto us:

*People: As we pray our Corporate Petition.*

*or the following alternative:*

Prayers of the People Option II:

Deacon: Beloved in the Lord, in the Word made flesh God has redeemed and elevated fallen human nature, so that all may see His salvation. Let us pray that His grace and truth be seen in us.

Minister: O Father of all, we thank You for overcoming the darkness with Your great light, our Lord Jesus Christ.

*People: Through the Incarnation, may we walk as children of light.*

Minister: We thank You that He has come to give us the right to become Your children, a people of Your own possession.

*People: Through the Incarnation, may we bring glory to You, to Whom we belong.*

Minister: We thank You that He has come to break the yoke of slavery and the staff of oppression.

*People: Through the Incarnation, may we bring freedom to the oppressed.*

Minister: We thank you that He has come as the Prince of Peace.

*People: Through the Incarnation, may the power of the violent aggressor be shattered.*

Minister: We thank You that He has come to raise the value of human life.

*People: Through the Incarnation, may we bring respect to the poor, the elderly, and the unborn.*

Minister: We thank You that He has come to redeem us from every lawless deed.

*People: Through the Incarnation, may we be purified for every good deed.*

Minister: We thank You that He has come with healing in His wings.

*People: Through the Incarnation, may we lay hands on the sick, and they recover.*

Deacon: We thank You that He has come as the Head of the Church.

*People: Through the Incarnation, may we become living stones in this Project of Love, as we pray in our Corporate Petition.*

# The Concluding Collect:

Presider: O God, Whose zeal is establishing a Kingdom of righteousness and justice and peace, grant that we, the people of that Kingdom, may be zealous in faith, hope, and most of all, love, as the Incarnation of Christ takes hold in us. We ask this for the glory of Your Name. ***Amen.***

# Proper Preface:

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give You thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For on the feast of this awe-filled mystery, though invisible in His own divine nature, He has appeared visibly in ours, and begotten before all ages, He has begun to exist in time, so that, raising up in Himself all that was cast down, He might restore unity to all creation and call straying humanity back to the heavenly Kingdom.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise You, as in joyful celebration we acclaim:

Benediction:

May Almighty God, Who in the Word made flesh joined Heaven to earth and earth to Heaven, give you His peace and favor; and the blessing of God Almighty: ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. ***Amen.***