Sunday, December 24, 2023: Eve of the Feast of the Nativity

(Christmas Eve Service)

Theme: “Enlarging the Borders of Joy”

Collect of the Day:

O God, You have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy Him perfectly in heaven; where with You and the Holy Spirit He lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. ***Amen.***

Old Testament Proclamation: Isaiah 52: 7-10

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 96

New Testament Proclamation: Hebrews 5: 1-5

Gospel Proclamation: Luke 2: 1-14

Gradual Verse:

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops.

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, with each intercession prayed by different members of the congregation and the people singing the responses.*

Prayers of the People Option II:

Deacon: Dearly beloved brethren, on this night we no longer sit in darkness, for we see a great light. Let us then thank God for His light, and for His love toward all people.

Minister: Mighty God, we thank You for Your salvation proclaimed this night as a virgin bears a Son.

*People: Glory to God in the Highest!*

Minister: We thank You for Your salvation proclaimed this night in a Child born into the world as man, yet existing from eternity as God.

*People: Glory to God in the Highest!*

Minister: We thank You for Your salvation proclaimed this night by a heavenly host unto humble shepherds.

*People: Glory to God in the Highest!*

Minister: We thank You for Your salvation proclaimed this night that brings great joy into our hearts.

*People: Glory to God in the Highest!*

Minister: We thank You for peace on earth proclaimed this night by our Prince of Peace.

*People: Glory to God in the Highest!*

Deacon: We thank You for the healing of the sick proclaimed this night by our Jehovah Rapha.

*People: Glory to God in the Highest!*

Minister: We thank You for Your provision proclaimed this night, as this Church under Construction continues to pray our Corporate Petition.

*People: Glory to God in the Highest!*

# The Concluding Collect:

Presider: We praise You, Sovereign Lord, for the Gospel that goes forth on this night, that there has been born for us a Savior. Praise be to Your Name forever and ever! ***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.

For in the mystery of the Word made flesh a new light of Your glory has shone upon the eyes of our mind, so that, as we recognize in him God made visible, we may be caught up through him in love of things invisible.

And so, with angels and archangels, with thrones and dominions, and with all the hosts and powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of Your glory, as without end we acclaim:

Benediction:

May Almighty God, Who sent His Son to take our nature upon Him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of His holiness; and the blessing of God Almighty: ✠ the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. ***Amen.***