PROPER COMMUNICANTES FOR CHRISTMAS

Præsta, quæsumus, omni-potens Deus: ut natus hodie Saluator mundi, sicut divina nobis generationis est auctor, ita et immortaltatis ipsum largitor. Quem tecum vivit.

COMMUNION: PS. 97. 3

Vidérand omnes fines terræ salutare Dei nostri.

POSTCOMMUNION

Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that as the Saviour of the world born on this day is born King of the Jews, so it is written by the Prophet: And thou Bethlehem, the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come forth the Captian that shall rule My people Israel. Then Herod, privately calling the wise men, learned diligently of them the time of the star which appeared to them: and sending them into Bethlehelm said: Go and diligently inquire after the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word again, that I also may come and adore Him. Who having heard the king went their way. And beholding the star, which they had seen in the East, went before them until it came and stood over where the Child was. And seeing the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy, And entering into the house, they found the Child with Mary His mother, (see paragraph falling down they adored Him. And opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having received an answer in sleep that they should not return to Herod, they went back another way into their country.

COMMENTARY ON THE MASS DURING THE DAY

It will have been made obvious by this time that the Christmas liturgy gives far greater emphasis to the majesty of the Child Jesus than to the lowly state of His birth. The Mass of the day does not differ in this respect from that at midnight or at dawn. The beginning of the Isaaeit “Puer natus est” may seem to sound a different note, but it goes on at once to mention universal royalty and the “government” which “is upon this throne.” The same idea recurs in the Epistle taken from St Paul who piles up quotations from the Scriptures to emphasise the divine transcendency of Him whom he calls “the brightness of His glory and the figure of his substance” who “is for ever and ever”, unchanging, whereas the heavens and earth, the works of His hands, shall come to an end. The Gospel is that read daily at the end of Mass, that solemn introduction to St John’s Gospel which, on Christmas day, takes on an even greater solemnity: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” It seems as if the Church would give special emphasis to the divinity of Christ in the time when she manifest Him coming down to us, to our human nature, to make it his own and to save us. As we contemplans the naïl, it is indeed well that we should be able to acknowledge there the Word, the very Son of God who, in the name of all the prophets, came Himself to bring us tidings from the Father and who, having made “punishment of sins, siteth on the right hand of the Majesty on High” (Epistle). These lofty considerations are admirably fitted to show the place of the mystery of Christmas in the scheme of salvation and to help us to understand how far it affects us: “Grant us, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that as the Saviour of the world born on this day in the author of our divine generation, He may Himself also be to us the giver of immortality.”

Commentary From St. Andrew Daily Missal, 1952 ed.

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST \n
memory of the same glorious ever Virgin Mary, Mother of the same Jesus Christ, our Lord and God; also of...

GOSPEL: LUKE. 2. 1-14

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Juda in the days of King Herod, behold there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem, saying: Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and are come to adore Him. And king Herod hearing this was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And assembling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where Christ should be born. But they said to him: In Bethlehem of Juda. For it is written by the Prophet: And thou Bethlehem, the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come forth the Captain that shall rule My people Israel. Then Herod, privately calling the wise men, learned diligently of them the time of the star which appeared to them: and sending them into Bethlehelm said: Go and diligently inquire after the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word again, that I also may come and adore Him. Who having heard the king went their way. And beholding the star, which they had seen in the East, went before them until it came and stood over where the Child was. And seeing the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy, And entering into the house, they found the Child with Mary His mother, (see paragraph falling down they adored Him. And opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having received an answer in sleep that they should not return to Herod, they went back another way into their country.

CREDO

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.