

The Holy Innocents – December 28



Introit

Out of the mouth of babes and nursing /
infants



You have or- / dained strength,
Because of Your / enemies,
That You may silence the enemy and the a- / venger.

O / Lord, our Lord,

How excellent is Your name in / all the earth,
Who have set Your / glory
above the / heavens!

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your / fingers,

The moon and the stars, which You / have ordained,
What is man that You are mind- / ful of him,
And the son of man that You / visit him?

For You have made him a little lower than the / angels,
And You have crowned him with glory and / honor.

You have made him to have dominion over the works / of Your hands;
You have put all things un- / der his feet,

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son*

and to the Holy / Spirit
as it was in the be / ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Out of the mouth of babes and nursing / infants

You have or- / dained strength,
Because of Your / enemies,
That You may silence the enemy and the a- / venger.
(Antiphon, Ps 8:2; Psalm 8:1, 3-6)

Collect

O almighty God, who out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants has ordained strength and made infants to glorify You by their deaths, mortify and kill all vices in us and so strengthen us by Your grace that by the innocency of our lives and constancy of our faith, even unto death, we may glorify Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:15-17 or Exodus 1:8-22

*A voice of weeping heard in Ramah
Pharaoh orders the murder of all Hebrew boys*

Gradual



Blessed / be the Lord,
Who has not given us as prey / to their teeth.
Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the / fowlers;
The snare is broken, and we / have escaped.
Our help is in the name / of the Lord,
Who made / heaven and earth.
(Psalm 124:6-8)

Epistle: Revelation 14:1-5

144,000 who are blameless

Verse

Alle- / luia.*
Alle- / luia.
Praise, O servants / of the Lord,*
Praise the name of the Lord! Alle- / luia. *(Psalm 113:1)*

Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 2:13-18

Herod's slaughter of the Holy Innocents



Offertory

“If it had not been the Lord who was / on our side,
When men rose up a- / gainst us,
Then they would have swallowed / us alive,
When their wrath was kindled a- / gainst us;
Then the waters would have over / whelmed us,
The stream would have gone o- / ver our soul;
Then the swollen / waters
Would have gone o- / ver our soul.”
Blessed / be the Lord,
Who has not given us as prey / to their teeth.
Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the / fowlers;
The snare is broken, and we / have escaped. *(Psalm 124:2-7)*

