

**Jeremiah 31:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> Thus says the LORD: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted for her children, because they are no more." <sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD: "Refrain your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; For your work shall be rewarded, says the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy." <sup>17</sup> There is hope in your future, says the LORD, that your children shall come back to their own border.

**Revelation 14:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. <sup>3</sup> They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. <sup>4</sup> These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God

and to the Lamb. <sup>5</sup> And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

**St. Matthew 2:13-18**

<sup>13</sup> Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." <sup>14</sup> When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." <sup>16</sup> Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. <sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: <sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

**DECEMBER 28—FESTIVAL OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS (RED)****Introit.**

*Ant.* OUT OF || the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine | **ene-** | mies:

that thou mightest still the enemy and | the | a- | veng- | er.

*Psalm.* || O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all | the | earth:

who hast set thy glory a- | bove | the | heav- | ens.

GLO-RY || be to the Father and to the | Son | - :

and to | the | Ho- | ly | Ghost.

AS IT || was in the beginning, is now, and ever | shall | be:

world with- | out | end. | A- | men. (*Ant. Repeated.*)

**Collect.**

O God, whose praise the martyred Innocents confessed, not by speaking, but by dying: destroy in us all wickedness, that our life may proclaim the faith in word and deed, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth, ever One God, world without end. *Amen.*

**Epistle. Revelation 14:1-5. Gospel. Matthew 2:13-18.**

**Gradual.**

|| Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the | fow- | lers:  
the snare is broken, and we | are | es- | cap- | ed.

|| Our help is in the name of the | Lord | - :

who made | heav- | en | and | earth.

|| Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Praise ye the Lord. Praise, O ye servants of the | Lord | - :

praise the name of the Lord. Hal- | le- | lu- | jah.

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS  
DECEMBER 28



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# Psalms for Holy Innocents

## Psalm 9—Confitebor tibi

### Psalm Tone IV



*Antiphon:* **THE ONE** - || hundred and forty-four thousand who were re- | deemed | from | the | earth. \*

These are the ones who were not defiled with women, | for | they | are | vir- | gins.

These are the ones who follow the Lamb wher- | ev- | er | He | goes. \*

These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to | God | and | to | the | Lamb.

These are the ones who come out of the great | trib- | u- | la- | tion, \*

and washed their robes and made them white in | the | blood | of | the | Lamb. (Revelation 14:3-4, 7:14)

|| 1 I will praise You, O Lord, with | my | whole | heart; | - \*

I will tell of all | Your | mar- | ve- | lous | works.

|| 2 I will be glad and re- | joice | in | You; | - \*

I will sing praise to | Your | name, | O | Most | High.

|| 3 When my e- | ne- | mies | turn | back, \*

They shall fall and per- | ish | at | Your | pre- | sence.

|| 4 For You have maintained my right | and | my | cause; | - \*

You sat on the throne judg- | ing | in | right- | eous- | ness.

|| 5 You have rebuked the na -tions, (+) You have de- | stroyed | the | wick- | ed; \*

You have blotted out their name for- | ev- | er | and | ev- | er.

|| 6 O enemy, destructions are fin- | ished | for- | ev- | er! \*

And you have destroyed cities; Even their mem- | o- | ry | has | per- | ished.

|| 7 But the Lord shall en- | dure | for- | ev- | er; \*

He has prepared | His | throne | for | judg- | ment.

|| 8 He shall judge the | world | in | *right-eous-* | ness, \*

And He shall administer judgment for the peo- | ples | in | up- | right- | ness.

|| 9 The Lord also will be a refuge for | the | op- | pressed, | - \*

A refuge | in | times | of | trou- | ble.

|| 10 And those who know Your name will put their | trust | in | You; | - \*

For You, Lord, have not forsak- | en | those | who | seek | You.

|| 11 Sing praises to the Lord, who | dwells | in | Zi- | on! \*

Declare His deeds | a- | mong | the | peo- | ple.

|| 12 When He avenges blood, He | re- | mem- | bers | them; \*

He does not forget the | cry | of | the | hum- | ble.

|| 13 Have mercy on me, O Lord! Consider my trouble from | those | who | hate | me, \*

You who lift me up | from | the | gates | of | death,

|| 14 That I may tell of all Your praise in the gates of the daugh- | ter | of | Zi- | on. \*

I will rejoice | in | Your | sal- | va- | tion.

|| 15 The nations have sunk down in the pit | which | they | made; | - \*

In the net which they hid, | their | own | foot | is | caught.

|| 16 The Lord is known by the judgment He | ex- | e- | cutes; | - \*

The wicked is snared in the | work | of | his | own | hands.

|| 17 The wicked shall be turned | in- | to | hell, | - \*

And all the na- | tions | that | for- | get | God.

|| 18 For the needy shall not always | be | for- | got- | ten; \*

The expectation of the poor shall not | per- | ish | for- | ev- | er.

|| 19 Arise, O Lord, do not let | man | pre- | vail; | - \*

Let the nations | be | judged | in | Your | sight.

|| 20 Put them in | fear, | O | Lord, | - \*

That the nations may know them- | selves | to | be | but | men.

GLO- RY - || be to the Father, and | to | the | Son: | - \*

and | to | the | Ho- | ly | Ghost;

AS IT - || was in the begin -ning, (+) is now, and | ev- | er | shall | be: \*

world | with- | out | end. | A- | men.

THE ONE - || hundred and forty-four thousand who were re- | deemed | from | the | earth. \*

These are the ones who were not defiled with women, | for | they | are | vir- | gins.

These are the ones who follow the Lamb wher- | ev- | er | He | goes. \*

These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits | to | God | and | to | the | Lamb.

These are the ones who come out of the great | trib- | u- | la- | tion, \*

and washed their robes and made them white in | the | blood | of | the | Lamb.

### Psalm 8—*Domine, Dominus noster*

#### Psalm Tone VIII



#### Antiphon:

I SAW || under the altar the souls of those who had been *slain*

(+) ...And they cried with a loud voice, | say- | ing, \*

“How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and  
avenge our blood on those who | dwell | on | the |  
earth?”

Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said  
to them that they should rest a little while | lon- | ger, \*

until both the number of their fellow servants and their  
brethren, who would be killed as they were, | was | com-  
| plet- | ed. (Rev. 6:9-11)

|| 1 O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the | earth, | - \*

Who have set Your glory a- | bove | the | heav- | ens!

|| 2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have  
ordained strength, because of Your | en-e- • | mies, \*

That You may silence the enemy and | the | a- | ven- |  
ger.

|| 3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your | fin- |  
gers, \*

The moon and the stars, which | You | have | or- | dained,

|| 4 What is man that You are mindful of | him, | - \*

And the son of man that | You | vi- | sit | him?

|| 5 For You have made him a little lower than the | an- | gels, \*

And You have crowned him with glo- | ry | and | hon- |  
or.

|| 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of  
Your | hands; | - \*

You have put all things | un- | der | his | feet,

|| 7 All sheep and | ox- | en\*

—Even the | beasts | of | the | field,

|| 8 The birds of the air, and the fish of the | sea | - \*

That pass through the | paths | of | the | seas.

|| 9 O Lord, our | Lord, | - \*

How excellent is Your name | in | all | the | earth!

GLO- RY || be to the Father, and to the | Son: | - \*

and to | the | Ho- | ly | Ghost;

AS IT || was in the begin -ning, (+) is now, and ever | shall | be: \*  
world with- | out | end. | A- | men.

I SAW || under the altar the souls of those who had been *slain*

(+) ...And they cried with a loud voice, | say- | ing, \*

“How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and  
avenge our blood on those who | dwell | on | the |  
earth?”

Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while | lon- | ger, \*  
 until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, | was | com- | plet- | ed. (Rev. 6:9-11)

**Psalm 72—Deus, iudicium**

Psalm Tone VII



*Antiphon:*

**THEY WOR** - || shipped Him who lives forev- | er | and | ev- | er, \*

and cast their crowns before | the | throne, | say- | **ing**:  
 “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and hon- | or | and | pow- | er; \*

For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and | were | cre- | at- | **ed.**” (Rev. 4:10-11)

|| 1 Give the king Your | judg- | ments, | O | God, \*

And Your righteousness | to | the | king’s | **Son.** -

|| 2 He will judge Your people | with | right- | eous- | ness, \*

And Your | poor | with | just- | **ice.** -

|| 3 The mountains will bring peace | to | the | peo- | ple, \*

And the little hills, | by | right- | eous- | **ness.** -

|| 4 He will bring justice to the poor of the peo-*-ple*; (+) He will save the children | of | the | need- | y, \*

And will break in pieces | the | op- | press- | **or.** -

|| 5 They shall fear You as long as the sun | and | moon | en- | dure, \*

Throughout all | gen- | er- | a- | **tions.** -

|| 6 He shall come down like rain upon the grass | be- | fore | mow- | ing, \*

Like showers that | wa- | ter | the | **earth.** -

|| 7 In His days the right- | eous | shall | flour- | ish, \*  
 And abundance of peace, until the | moon | is | no | **more.**

-

|| 8 He shall have dominion also | from | sea | to | sea, \*

And from the River to the | ends | of | the | **earth.** -

|| 9 Those who dwell in the wilderness will | bow | be- | fore | Him, \*

And His enemies | will | lick | the | **dust.** -

|| 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles | will | bring | pre- | sents; \*

The kings of Sheba and Seba | will | of- | fer | **gifts.** -

|| 11 Yes, all kings shall fall | down | be- | fore | Him; \*

All na- | tions | shall | serve | **Him.** -

|| 12 For He will deliver the need- | y | when | he | cries, \*

The poor also, and him who | has | no | help- | **er.** -

|| 13 He will spare the | poor | and | need- | y, \*

And will save the souls | of | the | need- | **y.** -

|| 14 He will redeem their life from oppression | and | vi- | o- | lence; \*

And precious shall be their | blood | in | His | **sight.** -

|| 15 And He shall live; And the gold of Sheba will be | giv- | en | to | Him; \*

Prayer also will be made for Him continually, and daily |

He | shall | be | **praised.** -

|| 16 There will be an abundance of grain in the earth, on the top | of | the | moun- | tains; \*

Its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; And those of the city shall flourish like | grass | of | the | **earth.** -

|| 17 His name shall endure forev-*-er*; (+) His name shall continue as | long | as | the | sun. \*

And men shall be blessed in Him; All nations shall | call | Him | bless- | **ed.** -

|| 18 Blessèd be the Lord God, the | God | of | *Is-ra-* • | el, \*

Who only | does | won- | drous | **things!** -

|| 19 And blessèd be His glorious | name | for- | ev- | er! \*

And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. A- |  
men | and | A- | **men.** -

**GLO- - RY** - || be to the Father, | and | to | the | Son: \*

and to | the | Ho- | ly | **Ghost;** -

**AS - IT** - || was in the begin -*ning*, (+) is now, and | ev- | er |  
shall | be: \*

world with- | out | end. | A- | **men.** -

**THEY WOR** - || shipped Him who lives forev- | er | and | ev- |  
er, \*

and cast their crowns before | the | throne, | say- | **ing:**

“You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and hon- | or | and  
| pow- | er; \*

For You created all things, And by Your will they exist  
and | were | cre- | at- | **ed.**” (Rev. 4:10-11)



Festival of the Holy Innocents

72. Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band

Aurelius C. Prudentius, †413, cento  
Tr., Henry W. Baker, 1875, alt.

Daniel Vetter, 1713

1. Sweet flow'r - ets of the  
2. First vic - tims for th' in -  
3. Ah, what a - vailed King  
Δ4. O Lord, the Vir - gin -

mar - tyr band, Plucked by the ty - rant's  
car - nate Lord, A ten - der flock to  
Her - od's wrath? He could not stop the  
born, to Thee E - ter - nal praise and

ruth - less hand Up - on the thresh - old  
feel the sword; Be - side the ver - y  
Sav - ior's path. A - lone, while oth - ers  
glo - ry be, Whom with the Fa - ther

of the morn, Like rose - buds by a  
al - tar, gay, With palm and crown, ye  
mur - dered lay, In safe - ty Christ is  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Ghost for -

tem - pest torn;  
seemed to play.  
borne a - way.  
ev - er - more. A - men.