

CHRISTMAS

There are **FOUR** different Masses for Christmas, each with its own entrance antiphon! To simplify things, I've adapted each of the four introits as a verse to the same hymn, "**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**" (Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO). Sing the antiphon as verse one and five, and for 2-4, use the original text of the Christmas Carol (below). This works well because this is a slightly less familiar Christmas carol, making the new text not weird to sing. But it will still satisfy the expectation to sing "familiar carols." Additionally, the beginning of the antiphon uses the same first line as the original hymn, making it seem even more familiar.

Original Hymn: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened the heaven's door, and ye are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: News, news! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

Text: German/Latin, medieval; tr. John M. Neale, 1853, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent. Good Christian Friends, Rejoice 67 77 78 55 IN DULCI JUBILO

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON, Vigil *Cf. Ex 16: 6-7*

Hodie scietis, quia veniet Dominus,

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us,
and in the morning you will see his glory.

Vigil: Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear the news today, Jesus Christ will come to save;
in the morning presently, the glory of the Lord you'll see.
Christ will come to save! Christ will come to save!

Introit Text, Nativity of the Lord, Vigil Ex 16: 6-7 Hodie scietis, adapted Luke Massery © 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON, Mass at Night Ps 2: 7

Dominus dixit ad me:.

The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

NIGHT: Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Hear him say, the Mighty One: You are my beloved Son.
Now to me the Lord did say, I have begotten you this day.
Christ is born to reign! Christ is born to reign!

Introit Text, Nativity of the Lord, Night Ps 2: 7 Dominus dixit, adapted Luke Massery © 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON, Mass at Dawn Cf. Is 9: 1, 5; Lk 1: 33

Lux fulgebit hodie super nos

Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us;
and he will be called Wondrous God,
Prince of peace, Father of future ages:
and his reign will be without end.

DAWN: Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now a light will shine on us, for the Lord is born for us;
Wondrous God will be his name, the Prince of peace, forever reign.
Christ is born to reign! Christ is born to reign!

Introit Text, Nativity of the Lord, Dawn Is 9: 1, 5; Lk 1: 33 Lux fulgebit, adapted Luke Massery © 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON, Mass during the Day Cf. Is 9: 5

Puer natus est nobis

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us;
his scepter of power rests upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

DAY: Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now a child is born for us, and a son is given us;
On his shoulders pow'r will be, the wonder-counselor is he.
Christ is born to reign! Christ is born to reign!

Introit Text, Nativity of the Lord, Day Is 9: 5 Puer natus est nobis, adapted Luke Massery © 2020