

## Selected Prayers of Masses of the Nativity of the Lord

(The Roman Missal, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)

### FROM THE MASS AT NIGHT

**Collect** O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendor of the true light, grant, we pray, that we who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns...

**Offertory** May the oblation of this day's feast be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray, that through this most holy exchange [*commercia*] we may be found in the likeness [*forma*] of Christ, in whom our nature [*substantia*] is united to you. Who lives and reigns...

### FROM THE MASS AT DAWN

**Collect** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, as we are bathed in the new radiance of your incarnate Word, the light of faith, which illumines our minds, may also shine through in our deeds. Through our Lord...

**Offertory** May our offerings be worthy, we pray, O Lord, of the mysteries of the Nativity this day, that, just as Christ was born a man and also shone forth as God, so these earthly gifts [*substantia*] may confer on us what is divine. Through Christ...

### FROM THE MASS DURING THE DAY

**Collect** O God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature [*substantiae*] and still more wonderfully restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share [*esse consortes*] in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share [*particeps*] in our humanity. Who lives and reigns...

### FROM PREFACE II OF THE NATIVITY

... For on the feast of this awe-filled mystery, though invisible in his own divine nature [*in suis*], he has appeared visibly in ours; and begotten before all ages, he has begun to exist in time; so that, raising up in himself all that was cast down, he might restore unity [*in integrum restitueret*] to all creation and call straying humanity back to the heavenly Kingdom...

### FROM PREFACE III OF THE NATIVITY

... For through him the holy exchange [*commercium*] that restores our life has shown forth today in splendor; when our frailty is assumed by your Word, not only does human mortality receive unending honor but by this wondrous union [*consortio*] we, too, are made [*reddit*] eternal...