A Christmas Devotional Prayer

Side A. God, + come to my assistance.

Side B. Lord, make haste to help me.

Side A. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Side B. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

ALL. Jesus, Sweetest Child, who, coming down from the bosom of the Father for our salvation did not disdain the womb of the Virgin, where conceived by the Holy Spirit, you, the Word Incarnate, took upon yourself the form of a servant, have mercy on us.

Side A. Have mercy on us, Child Jesus.

Side B. Have mercy on us.

ALL. Hail Mary. . .

ALL. Jesus, Sweetest Child, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary, wrapped in swaddling clothes, laid in a manger, heralded by angels, visited by shepherds, have mercy on us.

Side A. Have mercy on us, Child Jesus.

Side B. Have mercy on us.

ALL. Hail Mary. . .

Sing. *BEHOLD A VIRGIN BEARING HIM*: Behold a virgin bearing him Who comes to save us from our sin; The prophets cry: prepare his way! Make straight his paths to Christmas Day.

ALL. Jesus, Sweetest Child, made known to the Magi by a star, adored on Mary's bosom, honored with the mystical gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, have mercy on us.

Side A. Have mercy on us, Child Jesus.

Side B. Have mercy on us.

ALL. Hail Mary. . .

ALL. Jesus, Sweetest Child, whom Herod sought to slay, whom St. Joseph carried with Mary into Egypt, who was saved by flight from a cruel death, and glorified by the praises of the Holy Innocents, have mercy on us.

Side A. Have mercy on us. Child Jesus.

Side B. Have mercy on us.

ALL. Hail Mary. . .

Sing. *BEHOLD A VIRGIN BEARING HIM*: Behold our Hope and Life and Light, The promise of the holy night; We lift our prayer and bend our knee To his great love and majesty.

ALL. Jesus, Sweetest Child, who with Mary most holy, and the patriarch St. Joseph, dwelt in Egypt until the death of Herod, have mercy on us.

Side A. Have mercy on us, Child Jesus.

Side B. Have mercy on us.

ALL. Hail Mary. . .

ALL. Jesus, Sweetest Child, brought to Jerusalem when twelve years old, sought by your parents with much sorrow, and after three days, found to their great joy among the doctors, have mercy on us.

Side A. Have mercy on us, Child Jesus.

Side B. Have mercy on us.

ALL. Hail Mary. . .

Side A. The Word was made flesh.

Side B. And dwelt among us.

Leader. Let us pray: Almighty and eternal God, Lord of heaven and earth, who reveal yourself to little ones, grant us, we beseech you, properly to honor the holy mysteries of your Son, the Child Jesus, and to follow him humbly in our lives, so that we may come to the eternal kingdom promised by you to little ones; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

ALL. Amen.

[Adapted from Marion Habig, O.F.M.'s Secular Franciscan Companion, 1987 revision; by Deacon Dave & Thérèse Ream, O.F.S., Revised July 2017]