Office of Readings

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor

OPENING

O God, come to my assistance.

Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

INVITATORY

Ant. Alleluia! The Lord is risen. Come, let us adore him. Alleluia!

Come, let us exult in the Lord; let us shout with joy to God our salvation.

Let us come before his face with praise and exult in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.

For the Lord does not cast off his people; for in his hand are all the ends of the earth.

And the heights of the mountains belong to him.

For the sea is his, and he made it; and his hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us adore and fall down before God; let us weep before the Lord who made us.

For he is the Lord our God; and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

As in the provocation, according to the day of temptation in the wilderness,

where your fathers tempted me; they tried me and saw my works.

For forty years I was close to this generation, and I said: "They always err in heart."

And these people have not known my ways, so I swore in my wrath that they will not enter into my rest.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Ant. Alleluia! The Lord is risen. Come, let us adore him. Alleluia!

HYMN

The Day of Resurrection

> The day of resurrection!
> Earth, tell it out abroad;
> the Passover of gladness,
> the Passover of God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 13 *The Fool Who Denies God*

> *Ant. This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. Alleluia.*

The fool has said in his heart: "There is no God." They are corrupt and have become abominable in their ways; there is no one who does good, not even one.

The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men, to see if there is anyone who understands or seeks God.

They have all turned aside; together they have become useless; there is no one who does good, not even one.

Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have acted deceitfully; the poison of asps is under their lips.

Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness; their feet are swift to shed blood.

Destruction and misery are in their ways, and the way of peace they have not known; there is no fear of God before their eyes.

Will all those who work iniquity not come to know it? They consume my people like food.

They have not called upon the Lord; therefore they trembled there with fear, where there was no fear.

For the Lord is in the just generation; you have confounded the counsel of the poor man, because the Lord is his hope.

Who will give from Zion the salvation of Israel? When the Lord will have brought back the captivity of his people, Jacob will rejoice, and Israel will be glad.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

> *Ant. This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. Alleluia.*

Psalm 14 *The Guest of God*

> *Ant. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed; let us therefore celebrate the feast. Alleluia.*

O Lord, who will dwell in your tabernacle? Or who will rest in your holy mountain?

He who enters without blemish and who works justice.

He who speaks truth in his heart, who has not acted deceitfully with his tongue, nor has done evil to his neighbor, nor has accepted a reproach against his neighbors.

In his sight the malign is brought to nothing, but he glorifies those who fear the Lord.

He who swears to his neighbor and does not deceive him;

he who has not given his money out at interest, and has not accepted bribes against the innocent.

Whoever does these things will not be moved forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

> *Ant. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed; let us therefore celebrate the feast. Alleluia.*

Psalm 15 *God Is My Inheritance*

> *Ant. Death is swallowed up in victory; thanks be to God who gives us the victory. Alleluia.*

Preserve me, O Lord, for I have hoped in you.

I have said to the Lord: "You are my God, for you have no need of my good things."

But for the saints who are in his land, he has made all my desires wonderful in them.

Their infirmities have been multiplied; afterward they hastened.

I will not gather together their convocations of blood, nor will I be mindful of their names through my lips.

The Lord is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; it is you who will restore my inheritance to me.

The boundaries have fallen to me in excellent places; for my inheritance is excellent to me.

I will bless the Lord who has given me understanding; moreover my reins have also corrected me, even until night.

I had foresight of the Lord in my sight always; for he is at my right hand, so that I will not be moved.

Because of this, my heart has rejoiced, and my tongue has exulted, and moreover, my flesh will rest in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to hell, nor will you allow your holy one to see corruption.

You have made known to me the ways of life; you will fill me with joy with your face; at your right hand are delights even to the end.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

> *Ant. Death is swallowed up in victory; thanks be to God who gives us the victory. Alleluia.*

FIRST READING: SCRIPTURE

COLOSSIANS 3:1-2

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

RESPONSORY

V. This is the day that the Lord has made. Alleluia.
R. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.
V. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
R. his love endures forever. Alleluia.

SECOND READING: PATRISTIC OR HAGIOGRAPHIC

Saint Gregory of Nazianzus
Oration 45, On Pascha

Yesterday I Was Crucified With Him

> Yesterday I was crucified with him; today I am glorified with him. Yesterday I died with him; today I am quickened with him. Yesterday I was buried with him; today I rise with him. Let us offer ourselves to him who suffered and rose again for us. Let us become divine for his sake, since for us he became man. He assumed the worse that he might give us the better; he became poor that we through his poverty might be rich; he took upon himself the form of a servant that we might receive back our liberty; he came down that we might be exalted; he was tempted that we might conquer; he was dishonored that he might glorify us; he died that he might save us; he ascended that he might draw to himself us, who were lying low in the fall of sin. Let us give all, offer all, to him who gave himself a ransom and reconciliation for us. But nothing can equal the grace. For this reason and for us, the Second Adam sat down in heaven. He is far better and higher than the first. So let us keep Easter, then, not as a festival of the flesh, but as a festival of the spirit.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord, the Office of Readings in this Easter season rings with alleluias. Grant us joy as we pray, and let that joy overflow into all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Let us praise the Lord.
And give him thanks.