Evening Prayer

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Saint Birgitta of Sweden, Religious

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.

HYMN

O Gracious Light

O gracious light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed;
now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Now let our voices join the song of those who stand before your throne,
while evening spreads her peaceful wings
and day's long labor nears its end.

Grant us, O Lord, a quiet night,
a clean heart, and a will made new;
and when the morning light returns,
may we arise and follow you.

Psalm 20 *Thanksgiving for Victory*

> *Ant. The Lord is my strength and praise; he has become my salvation.*

O Lord, the king will rejoice in your strength, and in your salvation he will exult greatly.

You have given him his heart's desire, and you have not withheld the will of his lips.

For you have anticipated him with sweet blessings; you have placed a crown of precious stones on his head.

He asked life from you, and you gave him a length of days forever and ever.

His glory is great in your salvation; glory and great beauty you will place upon him.

For you will give him to be a blessing forever and ever; you will gladden him in joy with your face.

For the king hopes in the Lord, and through the mercy of the Most High, he will not be moved.

Let your hand be found by all your enemies; let your right hand find all who hate you.

You will make them like a fiery oven in the time of your countenance; the Lord will trouble them in his wrath, and fire will devour them.

You will destroy their fruit from the earth and their seed from among the sons of men.

For they have extended evils against you; they have devised a plan which they were not able to establish.

For you will make them turn their back; among your remnants you will prepare their face.

Be exalted, O Lord, in your strength; we will sing and praise your power.

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. The Lord is my strength and praise; he has become my salvation.*

Psalm 21 *My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?*

> *Ant. They will proclaim his justice to a people yet to be born: the Lord has done this.*

O God, my God, look upon me; why have you forsaken me? Far from my salvation are the words of my sins.

O my God, I will cry out by day, and you will not hear; and by night, and it will not be foolishness in me.

But you dwell in the sanctuary, the praise of Israel.

In you our fathers hoped; they hoped and you delivered them.

They cried out to you and were saved; they hoped in you and were not confounded.

But I am a worm and not a man; the reproach of men and the outcast of the people.

All who saw me ridiculed me; they spoke with their lips and wagged their heads.

"He hoped in the Lord; let him rescue him; let him save him, since he wants him."

For you have drawn me out from the womb; you are my hope from the breasts of my mother.

I was cast upon you from the womb; from the womb of my mother, you are my God.

Do not depart from me, for tribulation is near, for there is none to help me.

Many calves have surrounded me; fat bulls have besieged me.

They have opened their mouths against me like a lion seizing prey and roaring.

I have been poured out like water, and all my bones have been scattered.

My heart has become like wax, melting in the midst of my bowels.

My strength has dried up like a clay pot, and my tongue has cleaved to my jaws, and you have led me down into the dust of death.

For many dogs have surrounded me; the assembly of the wicked has besieged me.

They have dug my hands and feet; they have numbered all my bones.

And they themselves have looked upon me and stared at me.

They divided my garments among them, and over my clothing they cast lots.

But you, O Lord, do not take your help far from me; attend to my defense.

O God, rescue my soul from the sword, and my only life from the power of the dog.

Save me from the mouth of the lion, and my humility from the horns of the rhinoceros.

I will declare your name to my brothers; in the midst of the church I will praise you.

You who fear the Lord, praise him; all the seed of Jacob, glorify him.

Let all the seed of Israel fear him, because he has not spurned or scorned the supplication of the poor man.

Neither has he turned away his face from me, and when I cried out to him, he heard me.

My praise is with you in the great church; I will pay my vows in the sight of those who fear him.

The poor will eat and will be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord will praise him; their hearts will live forever and ever.

All the ends of the earth will remember and will return to the Lord.

And all the families of the nations will adore in his sight.

For the kingdom is the Lord's and he will rule the nations.

All the fat ones of the earth have eaten and adored; all who descend into the earth will fall before him.

And my soul will live for him, and my seed will serve him.

The generation to come will be announced to the Lord, and the heavens will proclaim his justice to the people who will be born, whom the Lord has made.

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. They will proclaim his justice to a people yet to be born: the Lord has done this.*

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE (REVELATION 19:1–7)

Alleluia! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.

For his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication.

And he has avenged the blood of his servants from her hands.

Alleluia! And her smoke ascends forever and ever.

And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and adored God, seated upon the throne, saying: Amen. Alleluia.

And a voice went out from the throne, saying: "Give praise to our God, all you servants of God, and those who fear him, the small and the great."

And I heard as if a voice of a great multitude, and like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of great thunders, saying: "Alleluia! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, has reigned."

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give glory to him; for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife has prepared herself."

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.

SHORT READING

PHILIPPIANS 4:7

The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

RESPONSORY

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who made heaven and earth.

V. Blessed be the name of the Lord,

R. now and forever.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: MAGNIFICAT (LUKE 1:46-55)

THE CANTICLE OF MARY (MAGNIFICAT) (LUKE 1:46–55)

> *Ant. My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

My soul magnifies the Lord.

And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

Because he has regarded the humility of his handmaid; for behold, from henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

Because he who is powerful has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

And his mercy is from generation to generation for those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.

He has deposed the powerful from their seat, and he has exalted the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has received Israel, his servant, being mindful of his mercy.

As he spoke to our fathers: to Abraham and to his offspring 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. My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

EVENING INTERCESSIONS

As evening comes, let us lift our hearts to God in prayer, saying:

For the holy church throughout the world, that it may be a sign of your love and a servant of your kingdom: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who exercised authority today, that their decisions may have served justice and the common good: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who worked in our communities today, especially those whose work is dangerous or poorly rewarded: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the sick and the suffering, for the lonely and the grieving, that the evening may bring them comfort: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who will not sleep safely tonight, for the homeless, the hungry, and those in danger, that your providence may reach them: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the faithful departed, especially those we remember with love, that they may rest in your peace: we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as the Lord himself has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Eternal God, as the day comes to its close, we lay before you all the joys and sorrows, successes and failures of this day. Receive them as our evening sacrifice of praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless us: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SALVE REGINA

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy; our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.