Evening Prayer

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

The Annunciation of the Lord

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

Lift High the Cross

In the evening of this day, O Lord, we come to you,
contrite hearts and broken spirits, seeking to be made new;
for our sins are heavy burdens, and the way is long and steep;
grant us mercy, Lord, and pardon, as we cry to you and weep.

Let the cross of Jesus be the sign before our eyes,
his great love poured out in sorrow, his great death our sacrifice;
and the stone rolled back in glory, and the tomb forever bare:
this the sign that sins are conquered, this the gift beyond compare.

Now the evening lamps are lighted, and the darkness gathers near;
grant us peace beyond all asking, keep us safe from doubt and fear;
in the night may angels watch us, and at morning may we rise
to the glory of your mercy shining bright before our eyes.

Psalm 100 *Mercy and Justice*

> *Ant. Create a clean heart in me, O God.*

I will sing of mercy and judgment to you, O Lord; I will sing a psalm.

I will have understanding in the immaculate way; when will you come to me?

I walked in the innocence of my heart in the midst of my house.

I did not set before my eyes any unjust thing; I hated those who commit offenses.

The perverse heart did not cling to me; the malicious man who deviated from me, I did not know.

The one who was secretly detractingof his neighbor, him I drove away.

The proud eye and the insatiable heart: with this one I did not eat.

My eyes were upon the faithful of the land, that they might sit with me.

The man who walked in the immaculate way, this one served me.

The arrogant one did not dwell in the midst of my house; the one who spoke unjust things did not prosper before my eyes.

In the morning I put to death all the sinners of the land, so as to exterminate from the city of the Lord all the workers of iniquity.

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. Create a clean heart in me, O God.*

Psalm 101 *A Prayer in Affliction*

> *Ant. Create a clean heart in me, O God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come to you.

Do not turn your face away from me; in the day when I am troubled, incline your ear to me.

In whatever day I will call upon you, quickly hear me.

For my days have passed away like smoke, and my bones have been dried up like dried wood.

I have been struck like hay, and my heart has dried up; because I forgot to eat my bread.

From the voice of my groaning, my bone clung to my flesh.

I have become like a pelican in the desert; I have become like an owl in a house without a roof.

I have kept watch, and I have become like a lonely sparrow on a rooftop.

All day long my enemies have reproached me, and those who praised me swore against me.

For I ate ashes like bread, and I mixed my drink with weeping.

From the face of your anger and your indignation; for lifting me up, you have thrown me down.

My days have declined like a shadow, and I have withered like hay.

But you, O Lord, endure forever, and your remembrance from generation to generation.

You will rise up and have mercy on Zion; for its time to have mercy on it, for the time has come.

For your servants have been pleased with its stones, and they will have pity on its earth.

And the nations will fear your name, O Lord, and all kings of the earth your glory.

For the Lord has built up Zion, and he will be seen in his glory.

He has had regard for the prayer of the humble, and he has not despised their petition.

Let these things be written for another generation, and a people that will be created will praise the Lord.

For he has looked down from his high place; the Lord has looked down from heaven to the earth.

To hear the groaning of the shackled, to release the children of the slain.

So that they may declare the name of the Lord in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem.

When peoples and kings assembled together, to serve the Lord.

He answered him in the way of his strength: "Declare to me the fewness of my days."

"Do not call me back in the middle of my days: your years are throughout all generations."

"In the beginning, you founded the earth, O Lord, and the heavens are the works of your hands."

"They will perish, but you will remain; and all of them will grow old like a garment."

"And like a vesture, you will change them, and they will be changed. But you are always the same, and your years will not fail."

"The sons of your servants will dwell, and their offspring will be directed 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. Create a clean heart in me, O God.*

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE (COLOSSIANS 1:12–20)

Giving thanks to God the Father, who has made us worthy to be partakers of the lot of the saints in the light.
He has rescued us from the power of darkness, and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of his love,
in whom we have redemption through his blood, the remission of sins.
He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.
For in him all things were created in the heavens and on earth, the visible and the invisible.
Whether thrones or dominations or principalities or powers, all things were created through him and in him.
And he exists before all others, and all things continue in him.
And he himself is the head of the body, the Church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
so that he may hold the primacy in all things.
For it has pleased the Father that all fullness would dwell in him,
and that through him all things would be reconciled to himself, making peace through the blood of his cross, both as to the things on earth and the things in heaven.

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

HEBREWS 4:15–16

We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

RESPONSORY

V. Turn to me, O Lord, and have mercy on me.
R. Give your strength to your servant.
V. Do not forsake me, O Lord;
R. be not far from me, O my God.

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

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

> *Ant. Turn to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.*

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. Turn to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.*

EVENING INTERCESSIONS

At the close of this Lenten day, let us lay our prayers before the Lord, saying:

For the church, that this Lenten season may lead to a deeper love of God and neighbor: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, have mercy.*

For catechumens preparing for Easter baptism, that their formation in faith may be fruitful: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, have mercy.*

For those suffering from addiction, violence, or poverty, that they may find relief and support: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, have mercy.*

For those we have hurt or neglected, that God may heal the wounds we have caused: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, have mercy.*

For all who are dying, that they may face death with hope and peace: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, have mercy.*

For the faithful departed, that they may come to the fullness of life: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, have mercy.*

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

God of compassion, have mercy on us and on all sinners. Turn our hearts toward you in this holy season and grant us the grace of true repentance; through 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.

MARIAN ANTIPHON

AVE REGINA CAELORUM

Hail, O Queen of heaven enthroned! Hail, by angels Mistress owned! Root of Jesse, Gate of morn, whence the world's true Light was born: glorious Virgin, joy to thee, loveliest whom in heaven they see: fairest thou where

all are fair, plead with Christ our sins to spare.