Evening Prayer

Monday, June 9, 2003

Saint Ephrem of Syria, Deacon 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.

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 136 *By the Waters of Babylon (Part I)*

> *Ant. Praise to you, Lord God, now and forever.*

Upon the rivers of Babylon, there we sat and wept as we remembered Zion.

On the willows in their midst, we hung up our instruments.

For there those who had led us captive asked us the words of song.

And those who had carried us away said: "Sing to us a hymn from the songs of Zion."

How will we sing the song of the Lord in a foreign land?

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. Praise to you, Lord God, now and forever.*

Psalm 136 *By the Waters of Babylon (Part II)*

> *Ant. Praise to you, Lord God, now and forever.*

If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand be forgotten.

Let my tongue cling to my jaws if I do not remember you,

if I do not set Jerusalem forth as the beginning of my joy.

Remember, O Lord, the sons of Edom, on the day of Jerusalem,

who said: "Tear it down, tear it down, even to its foundation!"

O daughter of Babylon, you are wretched; blessed is he who repays you your payment,

which you have paid to us.

Blessed is he who will hold and dash your little ones against the rock.

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. Praise to you, Lord God, now and forever.*

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

COLOSSIANS 3:16

> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

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

Lord God, as evening comes upon us, we thank you for the blessings of this day. Forgive us where we have fallen short, and grant us your peace through the night; 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.

MARIAN ANTIPHON

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.