Evening Prayer

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

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 139 *Deliver Me From Evil Men (Part I)*

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

Rescue me, O Lord, from evil men; free me from the unjust man.

Those who have devised iniquities in their heart; all day long they incited conflicts.

They have sharpened their tongue like a serpent; the venom of asps is under their lips.

Guard me, O Lord, from the hand of the sinner, and free me from unjust men.

Those who have planned to supplant my steps.

The arrogant have hidden a snare for me, and they have extended cords as a trap.

Beside the path they have set a stumbling block for me.

I said to the Lord: "You are my God." Hear, O Lord, the voice of my petition.

O Lord, Lord, the power of my salvation: you cast a shadow over my head in the day of battle.

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 139 *Deliver Me From Evil Men (Part II)*

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

Do not hand me over, O Lord, to the desire of the wicked; they have conspired against me; do not abandon me, lest they prevail.

The head of their encirclement: the labor of their lips will overwhelm them.

Burning coals will fall upon them; you will cast them into the fire, into miserable ruin, and they will not endure.

A man of tongue will not be established on the earth; evil will capture the unjust man for his destruction.

I know that the Lord will effect the judgment of the poor, and the vindication of the needy.

Yet truly the just will confess to your name, and the upright will dwell with your face.

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 (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

1 PETER 5:10

> The God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory through Christ Jesus will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little.

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

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; 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.