Evening Prayer

Monday, February 2, 2004

The Presentation 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

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 45 *God Is Our Refuge and Strength*

> *Ant. God is our refuge and our strength.*

God is our refuge and strength, a helper in the troubles that have found us greatly.

Therefore we will not fear when the earth will be troubled, and the mountains will be transferred into the heart of the sea.

Their waters roared and were troubled; the mountains were troubled by his strength.

The outflows of the river make the city of God joyful; the Most High has sanctified his tabernacle.

God is in its midst, it will not be moved; God will help it at the break of dawn.

The nations were troubled, and the kingdoms were bowed down; he gave forth his voice, the earth was moved.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our support.

Come and see the works of the Lord, what wonders he has placed upon the earth,

making wars cease even to the ends of the earth.

He will destroy the bow and break the armor, and he will burn the shields in fire.

"Be empty and see that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations and exalted on the earth."

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our support.

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. God is our refuge and our strength.*

Psalm 46 *The Great King Over All the Earth*

> *Ant. The Lord Most High is awesome; he is the great king over all the earth.*

All you nations clap your hands; shout to God with a voice of jubilation.

For the Lord Most High is terrible; he is a great king over all the earth.

He has subdued peoples under us and nations under our feet.

He has chosen for us his inheritance, the beauty of Jacob which he has loved.

God has ascended with jubilation and the Lord with the voice of the trumpet.

Sing praises to our God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.

For God is the king of all the earth; sing wisely.

God will reign over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

The rulers of the people have gathered together with the God of Abraham.

For the mighty ones of the earth have been greatly exalted; he is the shield of the earth.

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 Most High is awesome; he is the great king over all the earth.*

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE (REVELATION 4:11; 5:9–10, 12)

Worthy are you, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and virtue;

for you created all things, and by your will they were and have been created.

Worthy are you, O Lord, to take the book and to open its seals;

for you were slain, and you have redeemed us for God in your blood,

from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

And you have made us into a kingdom and priests for our God, and we will reign upon the earth.

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

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.

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.