Office of Readings

Monday, February 23, 2004

Saint Polycarp, Bishop 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.

INVITATORY

Ant. Come, let us adore the Lord and bow down before him.

Come, let us exult in the Lord; let us shout with joy to God our salvation.

Let us come before his face with praise and exult in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.

For the Lord does not cast off his people; for in his hand are all the ends of the earth.

And the heights of the mountains belong to him.

For the sea is his, and he made it; and his hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us adore and fall down before God; let us weep before the Lord who made us.

For he is the Lord our God; and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

As in the provocation, according to the day of temptation in the wilderness,

where your fathers tempted me; they tried me and saw my works.

For forty years I was close to this generation, and I said: "They always err in heart."

And these people have not known my ways, so I swore in my wrath that they will not enter into my rest.

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. Come, let us adore the Lord and bow down before him.

HYMN

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

> O Splendor of God's glory bright,
> O thou that bringest light from light,
> O Light of light, light's living spring,
> O Day, all days illumining!
>
> O thou true Sun, on us thy glance
> let fall in royal radiance;
> the Spirit's sanctifying beam
> upon our earthly senses stream.
>
> The Father, too, our prayers implore,
> Father of glory evermore;
> the Father of all grace and might,
> to banish sin from our delight.
>
> All laud to God the Father be;
> all praise, eternal Son, to thee;
> all glory, as is ever meet,
> to God the holy Paraclete.

PSALMODY

Psalm 4 *Evening Prayer of Trust*

> *Ant. In peace I will lie down and sleep.*

When I called upon him, the God of my justice heard me; in tribulation you have enlarged me. Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer.

O sons of men, how long will you be dull of heart? Why do you love vanity and seek out falsehood?

Know that the Lord has made his holy one wonderful; the Lord will hear me when I cry out to him.

Be angry, but do not sin; what you say in your hearts, regret it upon your beds.

Offer up a sacrifice of justice and trust in the Lord. Many say, "Who shows us good things?"

The light of your face, O Lord, has been impressed upon us; you have given joy to my heart.

By the fruit of their grain, their wine and oil, they are multiplied.

In peace, together in the selfsame, I will sleep and I will rest.

For you, O Lord, have singularly settled me in hope.

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. In peace I will lie down and sleep.*

Psalm 5 *A Morning Plea*

> *Ant. In the morning I will stand before you, O Lord.*

Give ear to my words, O Lord; understand my cry.

Attend to the voice of my prayer, O my King and my God.

For to you I will pray; O Lord, in the morning you will hear my voice.

In the morning I will stand before you, and I will see; because you are not a God who wills iniquity.

Neither will the malicious dwell near you, nor will the unjust persist before your eyes.

You hate all those who work iniquity; you will destroy all who speak falsehood.

The bloodthirsty and deceitful man the Lord will abominate.

But I, in the multitude of your mercy, will enter your house; I will worship toward your holy temple in your fear.

Lead me, O Lord, in your justice; because of my enemies, direct my way in your sight.

For there is no truth in their mouth; their heart is vain.

Their throat is an open sepulchre; they acted deceitfully with their tongues; judge them, O God.

Let them fall from their devices; according to the multitude of their wickednesses, cast them out, for they have provoked you, O Lord.

But let all who hope in you rejoice; they will exult forever, and you will dwell in them.

And all who love your name will glory in you, for you will bless the just.

O Lord, as with a shield of your good will, you have crowned us.

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. In the morning I will stand before you, O Lord.*

Psalm 6 *Prayer in Distress*

> *Ant. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; heal me, O Lord.*

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your indignation, nor chastise me in your wrath.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.

And my soul is greatly troubled; but, O Lord, how long?

Return, O Lord, and rescue my soul; save me for the sake of your mercy.

For there is no one in death who is mindful of you, and who will confess you in the underworld?

I have labored in my groaning; every night I will wash my bed; I will water my couch with my tears.

My eye is troubled by rage; I have grown old among all my enemies.

Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity, for the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping.

The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord has received my prayer.

All my enemies will be put to shame and greatly troubled; they will be turned back and put to shame very suddenly.

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. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; heal me, O Lord.*

FIRST READING: SCRIPTURE

ROMANS 10:13-15

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?

RESPONSORY

V. Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us.
R. Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us.
V. You who rose from the dead,
R. have mercy on us.

SECOND READING: PATRISTIC OR HAGIOGRAPHIC

Saint Augustine of Hippo

Commentary on Psalm 85

Our Heart Is Made for God

> Acknowledge your blessings. Praise him who made you, love him who redeemed you. Fear him as your Creator, love him as your Father; fear him as your Lord, love him as your God. Do not let the passing things of this earth lead your heart away from the love of God, who is eternal. What do you prefer, my brethren — that which passes away, or that which remains? The world passes away in its lusts, and all the pride of the eyes; but he who does the will of God abides forever. What does it mean to do the will of God? To love one another. This is his commandment, that we love one another as he has loved us. This love does not grow cold; this love, though tested by tribulation, is purified. When you love gold you fear to lose it. When you love God, you fear rather to lose him by loving anything more. And yet, if you truly love him, you will not lose anything; you will gain all things, for all things are his, and he gives himself to those who love him.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord God, as we open your word, open our hearts to receive it. May these readings nourish our faith and deepen our love for you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Let us praise the Lord.
And give him thanks.