# Evening Prayer

*Wednesday, February 25, 2004*

Ash Wednesday

## 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 27** *Confidence in God*

> *Ant. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

To you, O Lord, I will cry out; O my God, do not be silent before me. Lest you be silent before me, and I become like those who descend into the pit.

Hear, O Lord, the voice of my supplication, as I pray to you, as I lift up my hands toward your holy temple.

Do not draw me away together with sinners and with those who work iniquity; who speak peace with their neighbors, but evils are in their hearts.

Give them according to their works and according to the wickedness of their inventions.

According to the works of their hands, give to them; repay them what they deserve.

For they have not understood the works of the Lord and the works of his hands.

You will destroy them and will not build them up.

Blessed is the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication.

The Lord is my helper and my protector; in him my heart has hoped, and I have been helped.

And my flesh has flourished again; and with my will I will confess to him.

The Lord is the strength of his people and the protector of the salvation of his Christ.

Save your people, O Lord, and bless your inheritance, and govern them and exalt them 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. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

**Psalm 28** *The Voice of the Lord*

> *Ant. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord the offspring of rams; bring to the Lord glory and honor.

Bring to the Lord glory for his name; adore the Lord in his holy court.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of majesty has thundered.

The Lord is over many waters.

The voice of the Lord is in power; the voice of the Lord is in magnificence.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; indeed, the Lord will break the cedars of Lebanon.

And he will reduce them to small pieces, like a calf of Lebanon, and the beloved one will be like the son of the rhinoceros.

The voice of the Lord divides the flame of fire.

The voice of the Lord shakes the desert; and the Lord will shake the desert of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord prepares the stags and will reveal the dense forests; and in his temple all will speak his glory.

The Lord causes the flood to dwell; and the Lord will sit as king in eternity.

The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.

*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. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

## 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

**ROMANS 5:8**

> But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

## 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

*O God, receive the sacrifices of this Lenten day as an offering pleasing to you. Whatever we have done well, count it to your glory; whatever we have failed in, pardon in your mercy; 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

### 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.*