Morning Prayer

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Easter, Week 4 — Wednesday

OPENING

O God, come to my assistance.

Lord, make haste to help me.

Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

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

This Is the Day

This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Death is conquered by his love;
all creation sings with gladness:
praise him, earth below and heaven above.

At the break of Easter morning
Mary came and found the tomb;
but the stone was rolled away, and
Jesus met her in the gloom.

Now the Lord of life is risen;
now our sorrow turns to song;
we who walked in death's dark shadow
are set free from all that long.

Psalm 108 *Praise and Petition*

> *Ant. This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. Alleluia.*

O God, my heart is ready; I will sing and I will compose a psalm, even my glory.

Rise up, psaltery and harp; I will rise up in the early morning.

I will confess to you among the peoples, O Lord, and I will compose a psalm to you among the nations.

For your mercy is magnificent, even above the heavens, and your truth, even to the clouds.

Be exalted above the heavens, O God, and your glory above all the earth.

So that your beloved may be freed, save with your right hand and hear me.

God has spoken in his sanctuary; I will rejoice, and I will divide Shechem, and I will measure out the valley of tents.

Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine; and Ephraim is the strength of my head.

Judah is my king; Moab is the pot of my hope.

Into Edom I will extend my shoe; the foreigners are made subject to me.

Who will lead me into the reinforced city; who will lead me even into Edom?

Will it not be you, O God, who have rejected us, O God, and will you not go out in our armies?

Give us help from tribulation, for the salvation of man is useless.

Through God, we will be strengthened, and he will bring our enemies to nothing.

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. This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. Alleluia.*

Psalm 146 *Praise the Lord, Who Heals the Brokenhearted*

> *Ant. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed; let us therefore celebrate the feast. Alleluia.*

Praise the Lord, for the psalm is good; may our God be sweet and becoming praise.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he will gather together the dispersed of Israel.

He who heals the brokenhearted and binds up their sorrows.

Who numbers the multitude of stars, and calls them all by their names.

Great is our Lord, and great is his virtue, and of his wisdom there is no number.

The Lord takes up the meek, but leads the sinners down to the ground.

Sing praise to the Lord with confession; sing psalms to our God on the harp.

Who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth; who brings forth grass upon the mountains and herbs for the service of men.

Who gives food to the beasts, and to the young ravens who call upon him.

He will not be pleased with the strength of a horse, nor will he be pleased with the legs of a man.

The Lord is pleased with those who fear him, and with those who hope in his mercy.

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. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed; let us therefore celebrate the feast. Alleluia.*

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE (ISAIAH 63:1–5)

Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this beautiful one in his robe?

"I, who speak justice and am a defender to save."

Why then is your apparel red, and your garments like those who tread in the winepress?

"I have trodden the winepress alone, and of the Gentiles there is not a man with me."

"I have trampled them in my fury, and I have trodden them down in my wrath; and their blood has been sprinkled upon my garments, and I have stained all my apparel."

"For the day of vindication is in my heart; the year of my redemption has come."

"I looked, and there was no helper; I sought, and there was none to give aid."

"And my own arm has saved me, and my fury itself has helped 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.

SHORT READING

COLOSSIANS 3:1

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

RESPONSORY

V. This is the day that the Lord has made. Alleluia.

R. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.

V. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

R. his love endures forever. Alleluia.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: BENEDICTUS (LUKE 1:68-79)

THE CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (BENEDICTUS) (LUKE 1:68–79)

> *Ant. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.*

Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and accomplished the redemption of his people.

And he has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David his servant.

As he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets, those who have been from the beginning:

Salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

To show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,

the oath which he swore to our father Abraham, that he would grant to us,

that being freed from the hand of our enemies, we might serve him without fear,

in holiness and justice before him, throughout all our days.

And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the face of the Lord, to prepare his ways.

To give knowledge of salvation to his people, for the remission of their sins,

through the compassionate mercy of our God, by which the Rising Sun has visited us from on high,

to illuminate those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to direct our feet in the way of 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. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.*

MORNING INTERCESSIONS

Rejoicing in the resurrection of the Lord, let us offer our prayers, saying:

For the church throughout the world, that it may proclaim the resurrection with boldness and joy: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear us. Alleluia.*

For the newly baptized, that they may grow in the faith they have received and be sustained by the Easter community: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear us. Alleluia.*

For all who are in darkness or despair, that the light of Easter may dawn in their lives: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear us. Alleluia.*

For those who have died in the hope of resurrection, that they may share fully in the Easter victory of Christ: we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, hear us. Alleluia.*

For all nations, that the peace of the risen Christ may overcome division and bring reconciliation: we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, hear us. Alleluia.*

For ourselves, that we may live as Easter people, bringing the good news of new life to those around us: we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, hear us. Alleluia.*

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 of life, your Easter victory over death changes everything. Grant that we may live not for ourselves but for him who died and rose for us; 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.