Morning Prayer

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Easter, Week 4 — Thursday

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 143 *Blessed Be the Lord My Rock (Part I)*

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

Blessed is the Lord my God, who trains my hands for the contest and my fingers for the war.

My mercy and my refuge; my support and my deliverer; my protector and the one in whom I have hoped, who subdues my people under me.

Lord, what is man, that you have made yourself known to him? Or the son of man, that you think about him?

Man has been made like vanity; his days pass away like a shadow.

Lord, bow your heavens and descend; touch the mountains and they will smoke.

Cast lightning and scatter them; send out your arrows and set them in disorder.

Send your hand from on high; free me and rescue me from many waters, from the hand of foreign sons.

Their mouth has spoken vanity, and their right hand is the right hand of iniquity.

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 147 *Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem (Part II)*

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

Who sends his crystal like morsels; before the face of his cold, who will endure?

He will send out his word and will melt them; his wind will blow and the waters will flow.

Who announces his word to Jacob, his justices and his judgments to Israel.

He has not done in this way for every nation, and his judgments he has not made manifest to them.

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 64:1–8)

O that you would rend the heavens and would come down; the mountains would melt away before your face.

As when fire burns the wood and the fire boils water, to make your name known to your enemies.

You have done terrible things which we did not look for; you came down and the mountains trembled before your face.

From of old, men have not heard nor perceived with the ears.

The eye has not seen, O God, besides you, what things you have prepared for those who wait for you.

You have met those who rejoice and do justice; in your ways they will remember you.

Behold, you are angry and we have sinned; in them we have been always, and we will be saved.

And we all have become as one unclean, and all our justices as the rag of a menstruous woman.

And we have all fallen as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

There is none that calls upon your name; that rises up and takes hold of you.

You have hidden your face from us, and you have crushed us by the hand of our iniquity.

And now, O Lord, you are our father; and we are clay. And you are our maker, and we all are the works of your hands.

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

ACTS 10:40–41

> This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

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

Risen Lord, you appeared to your disciples and breathed your peace upon them. Come to us now with your peace, strengthen our faith, and send us forth to be witnesses of your resurrection; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. 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.