Evening Prayer

Friday, July 23, 2004

Saint Birgitta of Sweden, Religious

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.

PSALMODY

Psalm 125 *The Lord Restored Our Fortunes*

> *Ant. Praise to you, Lord God, now and forever.*

When the Lord turned back the captivity of Zion, we became like those consoled.

Then our mouth was filled with gladness, and our tongue with joy.

Then they will say among the Gentiles: "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us; we have become joyful.

Turn back our captivity, O Lord, like a torrent in the south.

Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.

Going, they went and wept, casting their seeds.

But coming, they will come with rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.

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. Praise to you, Lord God, now and forever.*

Psalm 130 *My Soul Is Like a Weaned Child*

> *Ant. My heart is not raised up; my soul does not make itself proud.*

O Lord, my heart is not exalted, nor are my eyes lofty.

Neither have I walked in great things, nor in wonders beyond me.

If I were not humble, if my soul were not lifted up; as a weaned child is toward his mother, likewise let it be repaid to my soul.

Let Israel hope in the Lord, from this time forward and forevermore.

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 heart is not raised up; my soul does not make itself proud.*

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE (GALATIANS 4:4–7)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

so that he might redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive the adoption of sons.

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying out: Abba! Father!

And so now he is not a servant, but a son. And if a son, then also an heir through God.

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

1 JOHN 4:16

> God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

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 Jesus, you are the light that no darkness can overcome. As evening falls, let your light guard us from all harm and your love keep us through the night; 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.

MARIAN ANTIPHON

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.