Office of Readings

Saturday, July 24, 2004

Saint Sharbel Makhluf, Priest

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.

Psalm 61 *Trust Only in God*

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

Will my soul not be subject to God? For from him is my salvation.

For he himself is my God and my Savior; he is my supporter, I will no longer be greatly moved.

How long do you rush against a man? You all kill, as if at a leaning wall and a crumbling fence.

Yet truly they have planned to reject my price; I have run in thirst; they blessed with their mouth, and they cursed with their heart.

Yet truly be subject to God, O my soul; for from him is my patience.

For he himself is my God and my Savior; he is my helper, I will not be displaced.

In God is my salvation and my glory; he is the God of my help, and my hope is in God.

Trust in him, all the congregation of people; pour out your hearts in his sight.

God is our helper forever.

Yet truly, the sons of men are vain; the sons of men are liars in the scales, so that by vanity they are all deceived.

Do not trust in iniquity, and do not desire rapine; if riches abound, do not set your heart upon them.

God has spoken once, I have heard two things: power belongs to God,

and to you, Lord, belongs mercy; for you will render to every man according to his works.

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 62 *Seeking God in the Desert*

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

O God, my God, for you I watch at the break of day.

My soul has thirsted for you; in how many ways has my flesh longed for you.

In a desert land, without way or water, so in the holy land I have appeared before you, to see your power and your glory.

For your mercy is better than life; my lips will praise you.

In this way, I will bless you throughout my life; and in your name I will lift up my hands.

Let my soul be filled as if with marrow and fatness, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips.

I have remembered you upon my bed; in the morning I will meditate on you.

For you have been my helper, and under the cover of your wings I will rejoice.

My soul has adhered to you; your right hand has upheld me.

But they have sought my soul in vain; they will enter the lower parts of the earth;

they will be delivered to the power of the sword; they will be the portions of foxes.

But the king will rejoice in God; all who swear by him will be praised; for the mouth of those who speak iniquities has been stopped.

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 63 *My Soul Thirsts for You*

> *Ant. O God, you are my God; for you I long.*

O God, my God, to you I watch at the break of day.

My soul has thirsted for you; in how many ways has my flesh longed for you.

In a desert land, without way or water, so in the holy land I have appeared before you, to see your power and your glory.

For your mercy is better than lives; my lips will praise you.

In this way, I will bless you throughout my life; and in your name I will lift up my hands.

Let my soul be filled as if with marrow and fatness, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips.

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For you have been my helper, and under the cover of your wings I will rejoice.

My soul has adhered to you; your right hand has upheld me.

But those who seek my soul in vain; they will enter into the lower parts of the earth.

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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. O God, you are my God; for you I long.*

FIRST READING: SCRIPTURE

DEUTERONOMY 32:2-3

May my teaching drop like the rain, my speech condense like the dew; like gentle rain on grass, like showers on new growth. For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God!

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

O Lord, the psalmist says your law is sweeter than honey. Give us a taste for your word, that we may hunger for it and be nourished by it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Let us praise the Lord.
And give him thanks.