Evening Prayer

Tuesday, August 2, 2005

Saint Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop

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.

Psalm 100 *Mercy and Justice*

> *Ant. I will walk with blameless heart within my house.*

I will sing of mercy and judgment to you, O Lord; I will sing a psalm.

I will have understanding in the immaculate way; when will you come to me?

I walked in the innocence of my heart in the midst of my house.

I did not set before my eyes any unjust thing; I hated those who commit offenses.

The perverse heart did not cling to me; the malicious man who deviated from me, I did not know.

The one who was secretly detractingof his neighbor, him I drove away.

The proud eye and the insatiable heart: with this one I did not eat.

My eyes were upon the faithful of the land, that they might sit with me.

The man who walked in the immaculate way, this one served me.

The arrogant one did not dwell in the midst of my house; the one who spoke unjust things did not prosper before my eyes.

In the morning I put to death all the sinners of the land, so as to exterminate from the city of the Lord all the workers 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. I will walk with blameless heart within my house.*

Psalm 101 *A Prayer in Affliction*

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

O Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come to you.

Do not turn your face away from me; in the day when I am troubled, incline your ear to me.

In whatever day I will call upon you, quickly hear me.

For my days have passed away like smoke, and my bones have been dried up like dried wood.

I have been struck like hay, and my heart has dried up; because I forgot to eat my bread.

From the voice of my groaning, my bone clung to my flesh.

I have become like a pelican in the desert; I have become like an owl in a house without a roof.

I have kept watch, and I have become like a lonely sparrow on a rooftop.

All day long my enemies have reproached me, and those who praised me swore against me.

For I ate ashes like bread, and I mixed my drink with weeping.

From the face of your anger and your indignation; for lifting me up, you have thrown me down.

My days have declined like a shadow, and I have withered like hay.

But you, O Lord, endure forever, and your remembrance from generation to generation.

You will rise up and have mercy on Zion; for its time to have mercy on it, for the time has come.

For your servants have been pleased with its stones, and they will have pity on its earth.

And the nations will fear your name, O Lord, and all kings of the earth your glory.

For the Lord has built up Zion, and he will be seen in his glory.

He has had regard for the prayer of the humble, and he has not despised their petition.

Let these things be written for another generation, and a people that will be created will praise the Lord.

For he has looked down from his high place; the Lord has looked down from heaven to the earth.

To hear the groaning of the shackled, to release the children of the slain.

So that they may declare the name of the Lord in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem.

When peoples and kings assembled together, to serve the Lord.

He answered him in the way of his strength: "Declare to me the fewness of my days."

"Do not call me back in the middle of my days: your years are throughout all generations."

"In the beginning, you founded the earth, O Lord, and the heavens are the works of your hands."

"They will perish, but you will remain; and all of them will grow old like a garment."

"And like a vesture, you will change them, and they will be changed. But you are always the same, and your years will not fail."

"The sons of your servants will dwell, and their offspring will be directed 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. Praise to you, Lord God, now and forever.*

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

PHILIPPIANS 4:7

The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

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

Eternal God, as the day comes to its close, we lay before you all the joys and sorrows, successes and failures of this day. Receive them as our evening sacrifice of praise; 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

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.