Morning Prayer

Saturday, December 24, 2005

Advent, Week 4 — Saturday

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

Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer, save us all,
and hear your servants when they call.

When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch but the child
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
and things in heaven and earth shall own
that you are Lord and King alone.

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
laud, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally.

Psalm 119 *My Soul Clings to the Dust (Daleth)*

> *Ant. Your light will dawn, O Lord, and your glory will be seen upon us.*

My soul clings to the pavement; give me life according to your word.

I have declared my ways and you have heard me; teach me your justifications.

Lead me along the path of your commandments, for this I have willed.

Incline my heart to your testimonies and not to avarice.

Turn away my eyes, so that they may not see vanity; enliven me in your way.

Set up your word for your servant, in your fear.

Cut away my reproach, which I have suspected; for your judgments are delightful.

Behold, I have longed for your commandments; enliven me in your justice.

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. Your light will dawn, O Lord, and your glory will be seen upon us.*

Psalm 8 *The Glory of God and the Dignity of Man*

> *Ant. Your light will dawn, O Lord, and your glory will be seen upon us.*

O Lord, our Lord, how admirable is your name in all the earth!

For your magnificence has been elevated above the heavens.

Out of the mouth of infants and of sucklings, you have perfected praise, because of your enemies, so that you may destroy the enemy and the defender.

For I will see your heavens, the works of your fingers: the moon and the stars, which you have founded.

What is man, that you are mindful of him? Or the son of man, that you visit him?

You have made him a little less than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor.

And you have set him over the works of your hands.

You have subjected all things under his feet: all sheep and oxen, moreover, even the beasts of the field,

the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, who pass through the paths of the sea.

O Lord, our Lord, how admirable is your name throughout all the earth!

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. Your light will dawn, O Lord, and your glory will be seen upon us.*

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE (SIRACH 3:2–6, 12–14)

The Lord has honored the father above the children, and when seeking the judgment of the mother, he has confirmed it upon the children.

He who loves God will entreat pardon for his sins by prayer, and will refrain himself from them, and will be heard in the prayer of days.

And as he who lays up treasure, so also is he who honors his mother.

He who honors his father will have joy in his own children, and in the day of his prayer he will be heard.

He who honors his father will live a long life; and he who obeys the father will be a comfort to his mother.

My son, help your father in his old age, and do not grieve him in his life.

And if his understanding fails, have patience with him, and do not despise him when you are in your strength.

For the relieving of the father will not be forgotten; and instead of sin, it will be repaid to you.

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

ISAIAH 11:1–2

> A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

RESPONSORY

V. Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay.

R. Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay.

V. Give new courage to your people,

R. who trust in your word.

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

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

> *Ant. Come, Lord, and do not delay; forgive the sins of your people.*

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. Come, Lord, and do not delay; forgive the sins of your people.*

MORNING INTERCESSIONS

As we wait for the coming of our Lord, let us pray with longing hearts, saying:

For the whole church, that it may be a community of watchful hope, living in expectation of your return: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For those who do not yet know you, that the light of your gospel may dawn in their hearts: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For all who are burdened by sorrow, that Advent hope may sustain them: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For a spirit of generosity in this season, that the poor may experience the justice of your coming kingdom: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For our parish community, that we may prepare together with prayer and love for the mystery of Christmas: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*

For ourselves, that we may make room in our hearts for the Christ who comes: we pray to you, O Lord. *Come, Lord Jesus.*

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

God of the promise, you spoke through the prophets and fulfilled your word in Jesus Christ. Give us grace to live in patient hope, trusting in your promises, until he comes again in glory; through the same 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.