Office of Readings

Saturday, January 21, 2006

Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

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 80 *Sing to God Our Strength*

> *Ant. O that my people would hear me; O Israel, walking in my ways.*

Rejoice to God our helper; shout with jubilation to the God of Jacob.

Take up a psalm and give a drum, a pleasant psaltery with a harp.

Blow the trumpet at the new moon, on the notable day of your solemnity.

For it is a precept in Israel, and a judgment for the God of Jacob.

He established it as a testimony in Joseph, when he went out from the land of Egypt.

He heard a tongue which he did not know; he removed his back from burdens.

His hands were serving in baskets.

You called out in tribulation, and I freed you; I heard you in the hidden place of the storm.

I tested you at the waters of contradiction.

Hear, my people, and I will testify against you; O Israel, if you will hear me,

there will be no new god among you, and you will not adore a foreign god.

For I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt; open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

But my people did not hear my voice, and Israel was not obedient to me.

And so I dismissed them according to the desires of their heart; they will walk in their own inventions.

If only my people had heard me; if only Israel had walked in my ways!

I would have humbled their enemies as almost nothing, and upon those who troubled them I would have sent my hand.

The enemies of the Lord have lied to him, and their time will be forever.

And he fed them from the fat of the wheat, and filled them with honey from the rock.

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 that my people would hear me; O Israel, walking in my ways.*

Psalm 81 *The Judge of the Gods*

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

God has stood in the assembly of gods, and, being in their midst, he judges gods.

"How long will you judge unjustly and accept the persons of the wicked?"

"Judge for the poor and the orphan; give justice to the humble and the poor."

"Rescue the poor and the needy; free him from the hand of the sinner."

They have not known and have not understood; they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth will be shaken.

I said: "You are gods, and all of you are sons of the Most High."

"But you will die like men, and you will fall like one of the princes."

Rise up, O God, judge the earth; for you will inherit among all the nations.

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 82 *A Prayer Against Enemies*

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

O God, who will be like you? Do not be silent, and do not be appeased, O God.

For behold, your enemies have made a noise, and those who hate you have lifted up the head.

They have acted with malice in counsel against your people, and they have deliberated against your holy ones.

They have said: "Come, let us dissipate them from the nations, and let the name of Israel no longer be remembered."

For they have deliberated unanimously; they have made a covenant together against you:

the tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagarenes,

Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the foreigners together with the inhabitants of Tyre.

For Assur also has come with them; they have become a support for the sons of Lot.

Do to them as you have done to Midian and Sisera, as to Jabin at the brook of Kishon.

They perished at En-dor; they became like the dung of the earth.

Place their rulers as Oreb and Zeeb, and Zebah and Zalmunna; all their leaders,

who have said: "Let us gain possession of the sanctuary of God for an inheritance."

My God, make them like a wheel, and like stubble before the wind.

Like a fire that burns a wood, and like a flame burning mountains:

so will you pursue them with your tempest, and disturb them in your wrath.

Fill their faces with shame, and they will seek your name, O Lord.

Let them be ashamed and troubled forever and ever; and let them be confounded and perish.

And let them know that the Lord is your name; you alone are the Most High over 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. Praise to you, Lord God, now and forever.*

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 Hildegard of Bingen

Scivias, Book 1, Vision 1

The Living Light

> In the year 1141 of the incarnation of Jesus Christ the Son of God, when I was forty-two years and seven months old, a fiery light of tremendous brightness coming from heaven poured into my entire mind. Like a flame that does not burn but enkindles, it inflamed my entire heart and my entire breast, just like the sun that warms an object with its rays. And suddenly I could understand the meaning of the expositions of the books — of the psalter, the evangelists, and other catholic volumes of both the Old and New Testament — although I could not interpret the words of their texts. This understanding was not like that of the unlearned, but like the touch of a flame in which a fire is blazing but not roaring, just as the sun warms through its rays. And suddenly the meaning of expositions of the books shone in my mind. I trembled as a leaf shakes in a storm. I thought I saw the Living Light, and in this Light I heard a voice from heaven: "O frail human, ashes of ashes, decay of decay, say and write what you see and hear."

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.