Office of Readings

Sunday, March 23, 2008

Easter Sunday — Resurrection of the Lord

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 on this great solemnity.

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 on this great solemnity.

HYMN

The Day of Resurrection

> The day of resurrection!
> Earth, tell it out abroad;
> the Passover of gladness,
> the Passover of God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 1 *The Way of the Just*

> *Ant. This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. Alleluia.*

Blessed is the man who has not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, and has not stood in the way of sinners, and has not sat in the chair of pestilence.

But his will is in the law of the Lord, and he will meditate on his law day and night.

And he will be like a tree that is planted near the flowing streams of water, which will yield its fruit in its time, and its leaf will not fall away, and all things whatsoever that he does will prosper.

But the ungodly are not so; they are like the dust that the wind blows away from the face of the earth.

Therefore the ungodly will not rise up again in judgment, nor sinners in the council of the just.

For the Lord knows the way of the just, and the way of the ungodly will perish.

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. This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. Alleluia.*

Psalm 2 *The Reign of the Lord's Anointed*

> *Ant. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed; let us therefore celebrate the feast. Alleluia.*

Why have the Gentiles raged, and why have the peoples been meditating on vain things?

The kings of the earth have stood up, and the leaders have joined together as one, against the Lord and against his Christ.

"Let us break their bonds apart," and let us cast their yoke away from us."

He who dwells in the heavens will mock them, and the Lord will laugh at them.

Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and he will trouble them in his fury.

But I have been appointed king by him over Zion, his holy mountain, proclaiming his precept.

The Lord said to me: "You are my son; this day I have begotten you."

"Ask of me, and I will give you the Gentiles as your inheritance, and the ends of the earth as your possession."

"You will rule them with an iron rod, and you will break them like a potter's vessel."

And now, O kings, understand; accept instruction, you who judge the earth.

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice in him with trembling.

Accept discipline, lest the Lord become angry and you perish from the just way.

When his anger burns in a short time, blessed are all who trust in him.

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. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed; let us therefore celebrate the feast. Alleluia.*

Psalm 3 *Morning Prayer for Help*

> *Ant. Death is swallowed up in victory; thanks be to God who gives us the victory. Alleluia.*

O Lord, why have those who afflict me increased? Many are rising up against me.

Many say to my soul, "There is no salvation for him in his God."

But you, O Lord, are my defender; you are my glory and the one who lifts up my head.

I have cried out to the Lord with my voice, and he has heard me from his holy mountain.

I have slept and been at rest, and I have risen up, because the Lord has taken me up.

I will not fear the thousands of people surrounding me; arise, O Lord; save me, my God.

For you have struck all who are hostile to me without cause; you have shattered the teeth of sinners.

Salvation is of the Lord, and your blessing is upon your people.

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. Death is swallowed up in victory; thanks be to God who gives us the victory. Alleluia.*

FIRST READING: SCRIPTURE

2 CORINTHIANS 5:15

And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

RESPONSORY

V. This is the day that the Lord has made. Alleluia.

R. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.

V. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

R. his love endures forever. Alleluia.

SECOND READING: PATRISTIC OR HAGIOGRAPHIC

Saint Ephrem the Syrian

Hymns on the Resurrection 1

Praise to the Risen One

> Death became a gate of life for those who love life; in it life lay hidden until through death it appeared, and from the grave it showed itself. Thanks be to you, the living One, for you died and then returned to life. You went down to the realm of the dead and returned from it carrying spoils. You captured death as a prisoner. All the world was exulting because of you, O Master of the world. And each creature cried out: Glory and honor to you, Jesus, king of the world! You tasted death so that we who taste death should not die in our sins. You descended to the realm of the dead so that the souls of the dead might ascend. You rose and broke through the bars that confined the dead from ages past. You broke those bars and the captive ones came forth. They praised you, the living One who came into the realm of the dead and delivered them. May we too praise you and your resurrection by which you gave life to all the dead. Amen.

TE DEUM

1

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Almighty God, you have given us the hope of resurrection. Let that hope inform our reading, our prayer, and all our living; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Let us praise the Lord.

And give him thanks.