Evening Prayer

Friday, February 23, 2046

Saint Polycarp, Bishop 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.

HYMN

Lift High the Cross

In the evening of this day, O Lord, we come to you,
contrite hearts and broken spirits, seeking to be made new;
for our sins are heavy burdens, and the way is long and steep;
grant us mercy, Lord, and pardon, as we cry to you and weep.

Let the cross of Jesus be the sign before our eyes,
his great love poured out in sorrow, his great death our sacrifice;
and the stone rolled back in glory, and the tomb forever bare:
this the sign that sins are conquered, this the gift beyond compare.

Now the evening lamps are lighted, and the darkness gathers near;
grant us peace beyond all asking, keep us safe from doubt and fear;
in the night may angels watch us, and at morning may we rise
to the glory of your mercy shining bright before our eyes.

PSALMODY

Psalm 125 *The Lord Restored Our Fortunes*

> *Ant. My sacrifice is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you will not despise.*

When the Lord turned back the captivity of Zion, we became like those consoled.

Then our mouth was filled with gladness, and our tongue with joy.

Then they will say among the Gentiles: "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us; we have become joyful.

Turn back our captivity, O Lord, like a torrent in the south.

Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.

Going, they went and wept, casting their seeds.

But coming, they will come with rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.

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 sacrifice is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you will not despise.*

Psalm 130 *My Soul Is Like a Weaned Child*

> *Ant. My sacrifice is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you will not despise.*

O Lord, my heart is not exalted, nor are my eyes lofty.

Neither have I walked in great things, nor in wonders beyond me.

If I were not humble, if my soul were not lifted up; as a weaned child is toward his mother, likewise let it be repaid to my soul.

Let Israel hope in the Lord, from this time forward and forevermore.

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 sacrifice is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you will not despise.*

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE (GALATIANS 4:4–7)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

so that he might redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive the adoption of sons.

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying out: Abba! Father!

And so now he is not a servant, but a son. And if a son, then also an heir through God.

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

MICAH 7:18

> Who is there like you, the God who removes guilt and pardons sin for the remnant of his inheritance; who does not persist in anger forever, but delights rather in clemency.

RESPONSORY

V. Turn to me, O Lord, and have mercy on me.

R. Give your strength to your servant.

V. Do not forsake me, O Lord;

R. be not far from me, O my God.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: MAGNIFICAT (LUKE 1:46-55)

THE CANTICLE OF MARY (MAGNIFICAT) (LUKE 1:46–55)

> *Ant. Turn to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.*

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. Turn to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.*

EVENING INTERCESSIONS

At the close of this Lenten day, let us lay our prayers before the Lord, saying:

For the church, that this Lenten season may lead to a deeper love of God and neighbor: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, have mercy.*

For catechumens preparing for Easter baptism, that their formation in faith may be fruitful: we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those suffering from addiction, violence, or poverty, that they may find relief and support: we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For those we have hurt or neglected, that God may heal the wounds we have caused: we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For all who are dying, that they may face death with hope and peace: we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

For the faithful departed, that they may come to the fullness of life: we pray to you, O Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

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

Gracious God, you ask us to fast not merely from food but from sin and selfishness. Help us to share our bread with the hungry and to set free those who are oppressed; through 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

AVE REGINA CAELORUM

Hail, O Queen of heaven enthroned! Hail, by angels Mistress owned! Root of Jesse, Gate of morn, whence the world's true Light was born: glorious Virgin, joy to thee, loveliest whom in heaven they see: fairest thou where all are fair, plead with Christ our sins to spare.