Evening Prayer

Sunday, February 2, 2003

The Presentation 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.

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 110 *The Lord Said to My Lord*

> *Ant. The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand."*

The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I place your enemies as a footstool for your feet."

The Lord will send forth from Zion the scepter of your power; rule in the midst of your enemies.

With you is the principality on the day of your strength among the holy splendors; from the womb, before the daystar, I begot you.

The Lord has sworn and he will not repent: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedech."

The Lord is at your right hand; he has crushed kings on the day of his wrath.

He will judge the nations; he will fill ruins; he will crush heads in the land of many.

He will drink from the torrent on the way; therefore he will exalt the head.

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. The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand."*

Psalm 114 *Praise for God's Deliverance*

> *Ant. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.*

I have loved, because the Lord will hear the voice of my prayer.

Because he has inclined his ear to me, and in my days I will call upon him.

The sorrows of death have surrounded me, and the perils of hell have found me.

I met with tribulation and sorrow, and I called upon the name of the Lord.

"O Lord, free my soul."

The Lord is merciful and just, and our God has mercy.

The Lord is the keeper of little ones; I was humbled and he freed me.

Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has benefited you.

For he has rescued my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from falling.

I will please the Lord in the land of the living.

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. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.*

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

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Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not consider being equal to God something to be seized.
Instead, he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made into the likeness of men, and found to be a man in his condition.
He humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, even the death of the cross.
Because of this, God also has exalted him and has given him a name which is above every name,
so that, at the name of Jesus, every knee would bend, of those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth,
and so that every tongue would confess that the Lord Jesus Christ is in the glory of God the Father.

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

EPHESIANS 3:20

> Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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

Almighty God, you have promised to hear the prayer of those who ask in your Son's name. Receive our evening prayer, and grant us, and all for whom we pray, whatever is truly for our good; 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.