Office of Readings

Monday, April 21, 2003

Saint Anselm of Canterbury, Bishop and Doctor

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. Alleluia! The Lord is risen. Come, let us adore him. Alleluia!

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. Alleluia! The Lord is risen. Come, let us adore him. Alleluia!

HYMN

The Day of Resurrection

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

PSALMODY

Psalm 4 *Evening Prayer of Trust*

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

When I called upon him, the God of my justice heard me; in tribulation you have enlarged me. Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer.

O sons of men, how long will you be dull of heart? Why do you love vanity and seek out falsehood?

Know that the Lord has made his holy one wonderful; the Lord will hear me when I cry out to him.

Be angry, but do not sin; what you say in your hearts, regret it upon your beds.

Offer up a sacrifice of justice and trust in the Lord. Many say, "Who shows us good things?"

The light of your face, O Lord, has been impressed upon us; you have given joy to my heart.

By the fruit of their grain, their wine and oil, they are multiplied.

In peace, together in the selfsame, I will sleep and I will rest.

For you, O Lord, have singularly settled me in hope.

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 5 *A Morning Plea*

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

Give ear to my words, O Lord; understand my cry.

Attend to the voice of my prayer, O my King and my God.

For to you I will pray; O Lord, in the morning you will hear my voice.

In the morning I will stand before you, and I will see; because you are not a God who wills iniquity.

Neither will the malicious dwell near you, nor will the unjust persist before your eyes.

You hate all those who work iniquity; you will destroy all who speak falsehood.

The bloodthirsty and deceitful man the Lord will abominate.

But I, in the multitude of your mercy, will enter your house; I will worship toward your holy temple in your fear.

Lead me, O Lord, in your justice; because of my enemies, direct my way in your sight.

For there is no truth in their mouth; their heart is vain.

Their throat is an open sepulchre; they acted deceitfully with their tongues; judge them, O God.

Let them fall from their devices; according to the multitude of their wickednesses, cast them out, for they have provoked you, O Lord.

But let all who hope in you rejoice; they will exult forever, and you will dwell in them.

And all who love your name will glory in you, for you will bless the just.

O Lord, as with a shield of your good will, you have crowned us.

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 6 *Prayer in Distress*

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

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your indignation, nor chastise me in your wrath.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.

And my soul is greatly troubled; but, O Lord, how long?

Return, O Lord, and rescue my soul; save me for the sake of your mercy.

For there is no one in death who is mindful of you, and who will confess you in the underworld?

I have labored in my groaning; every night I will wash my bed; I will water my couch with my tears.

My eye is troubled by rage; I have grown old among all my enemies.

Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity, for the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping.

The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord has received my prayer.

All my enemies will be put to shame and greatly troubled; they will be turned back and put to shame very suddenly.

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

1 PETER 1:3-4

By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

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 Melito of Sardis

On the Pascha

Christ Our Passover

> Understand, therefore, beloved, how it is new and old, eternal and temporary, perishable and imperishable, mortal and immortal, this mystery of the Pascha. It is old as regards the law, but new as regards the Word;

> temporary as regards the type, eternal because of the grace; perishable because of the slaughter of the sheep, imperishable because of the life of the Lord; mortal because of his burial in the earth, immortal because of his resurrection from the dead. The law is old, but the Word is new. The type is temporary, but the grace is eternal. The sheep is perishable, but the Lord is imperishable. He was led as a sheep; he was not a sheep. He was silent as a lamb; he was not a lamb. The type has passed away; the reality has come. The lamb gives place to God, and the sheep gives place to a man, and the man is Christ, who fills all things. This is he who delivered us from slavery to freedom, from darkness to light, from death to life, from tyranny to eternal royalty, and made us a new priesthood and a chosen people forever.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O God of life, the church rejoices in the resurrection of your Son. May the scriptures and the words of the fathers we read today deepen our Easter faith and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Let us praise the Lord.
And give him thanks.