Office of Readings

Saturday, May 17, 2003

Easter, Week 4 — Saturday

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 80 *Sing to God Our Strength*

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

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

Psalm 81 *The Judge of the Gods*

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

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

Psalm 82 *A Prayer Against Enemies*

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

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

FIRST READING: SCRIPTURE

REVELATION 1:17-18

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever."

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 Gregory of Nyssa

On the Resurrection of Christ

The Power of the Resurrection

> The resurrection is truly a great thing, great and marvellous beyond description. Yet we see it take place around us every day. When does the night not die and the day rise? What is the night but the death of the day? And when does the day not rise from the night? The resurrection of the day from the night is a figure of the resurrection of the living from the dead. Watch the seed: it falls to the earth like a corpse; it is buried; the winter is its tomb. Then in spring it rises and puts on its garments. This teaches the mystery of the resurrection to those who have understanding. Watch the trees: they put off their leaves as the dead put off their bodies; then they are clothed again in spring with the garment of leaves. All of nature teaches us one lesson: what appears to die rises again. How much more then shall the human person, made in the image of God, who has Christ as the firstfruits of the resurrection, rise to new and immortal life at the last day!

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O Lord, as we read the words of the fathers of the church during this Easter season, may we be built up in faith, hope, and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Let us praise the Lord.
And give him thanks.