Morning Prayer

Saturday, December 6, 2003

Saint Nicholas of Myra, Bishop

OPENING

O God, come to my assistance.

Lord, make haste to help me.

Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

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

Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer, save us all,
and hear your servants when they call.

When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch but the child
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
and things in heaven and earth shall own
that you are Lord and King alone.

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
laud, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally.

Psalm 119 *Blessed Are the Blameless (Aleph)*

> *Ant. Your light will dawn, O Lord, and your glory will be seen upon us.*

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Blessed are those who search his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart.

For those who work iniquity have not walked in his ways.

You have commanded your commandments to be kept very much.

Would that my ways be directed so as to keep your justifications!

Then I will not be confounded, when I look upon all your commandments.

I will confess to you with sincerity of heart, in that I have learned the judgments of your justice.

I will keep your justifications; do not utterly forsake 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.

> *Ant. Your light will dawn, O Lord, and your glory will be seen upon us.*

Psalm 117 *Give Thanks to the Lord*

> *Ant. Your light will dawn, O Lord, and your glory will be seen upon us.*

Give praise to the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy is forever.

Let Israel now say: for his mercy is forever.

Let the house of Aaron now say: for his mercy is forever.

Let those who fear the Lord now say: for his mercy is 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. Your light will dawn, O Lord, and your glory will be seen upon us.*

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE (EXODUS 15:1–4, 8–13, 17–18)

Let us sing to the Lord, for he is magnificently glorious; the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my praise, and he has become my salvation.

He is my God, and I will glorify him; he is the God of my father, and I will exalt him.

The Lord is like a warrior; Almighty is his name.

At the breath of your fury, the waters parted; the flowing water stood up like a wall.

The depths were gathered together in the midst of the sea.

The enemy said: "I will pursue and overtake; I will divide the spoils."

You blew your wind, and the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

Who is like you among the strong, O Lord? Who is like you, glorious in holiness, terrible in praises, doing wonders?

You stretched out your hand, and the earth swallowed them.

In your mercy, you were the leader of the people whom you redeemed; and in your strength you carried them to your holy dwelling.

You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance,

in your most firm dwelling, which you have fashioned, O Lord, in your sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.

The Lord will reign forever and ever.

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

ISAIAH 11:1–2

> A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

RESPONSORY

V. Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay.

R. Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay.

V. Give new courage to your people,

R. who trust in your word.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: BENEDICTUS (LUKE 1:68-79)

THE CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (BENEDICTUS) (LUKE 1:68–79)

> *Ant. Come, Lord, and do not delay; forgive the sins of your people.*

Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and accomplished the redemption of his people.

And he has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David his servant.

As he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets, those who have been from the beginning:

Salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

To show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,

the oath which he swore to our father Abraham, that he would grant to us,

that being freed from the hand of our enemies, we might serve him without fear,

in holiness and justice before him, throughout all our days.

And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the face of the Lord, to prepare his ways.

To give knowledge of salvation to his people, for the remission of their sins,

through the compassionate mercy of our God, by which the Rising Sun has visited us from on high,

to illuminate those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to direct our feet in the way of peace.

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, Lord, and do not delay; forgive the sins of your people.*

MORNING INTERCESSIONS

As we wait for the coming of our Lord, let us pray with longing hearts, saying:

For the whole church, that it may be a community of watchful hope, living in expectation of your return: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For those who do not yet know you, that the light of your gospel may dawn in their hearts: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For all who are burdened by sorrow, that Advent hope may sustain them: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For a spirit of generosity in this season, that the poor may experience the justice of your coming kingdom: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For our parish community, that we may prepare together with prayer and love for the mystery of Christmas: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*

For ourselves, that we may make room in our hearts for the Christ who comes: we pray to you, O Lord. *Come, Lord Jesus.*

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

God of the promise, you spoke through the prophets and fulfilled your word in Jesus Christ. Give us grace to live in patient hope, trusting in your promises, until he comes again in glory; through the same 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.