Evening Prayer

Sunday, December 21, 2003

4th Sunday of Advent

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 Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

Psalm 110 *The Lord Said to My Lord*

> *Ant. The Spirit and the Bride say: Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

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 Spirit and the Bride say: Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Psalm 114 *Praise for God's Deliverance*

> *Ant. The Spirit and the Bride say: Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

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. The Spirit and the Bride say: Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE (PHILIPPIANS 2:6–11)

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

REVELATION 22:17

> The Spirit and the bride say: "Come." Let the hearer say, "Come." Let the one who thirsts come forward, and the one who wants it receive the gift of life-giving water.

RESPONSORY

V. Come and set us free, Lord God of power.
R. Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.
V. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
R. and grant us your salvation.

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

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

> *Ant. The Lord will come; go out to meet him, saying: "Great is his dominion, and his peace will have no end."*

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. The Lord will come; go out to meet him, saying: "Great is his dominion, and his peace will have no end."*

EVENING INTERCESSIONS

As evening falls during this holy season of waiting, let us pray to the Lord who comes, saying:

For the church, that our Advent waiting may be active and hopeful, not passive or fearful: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For those who hunger for justice and for peace, that the promise of your kingdom may sustain them: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For the sick and those who care for them, that the healing touch of Christ may be near: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For all who will travel during this season, that they may journey safely: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For those who have died, especially those we remember in our hearts this evening, that they may share in the joy of the Lord's coming: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For our parish community, that our Advent journey together may prepare us well for the joy of Christmas: 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

Come, O come, Emmanuel. Ransom your people from all that holds us bound, and by your grace set us free to live in the joy of your salvation; 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

ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

Loving Mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, assist your people who have fallen, yet strive to rise again. To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before. You who

received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.