Office of Readings

Sunday, April 4, 2004

Palm Sunday of the Passion 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.

INVITATORY

Ant. Come, let us adore the Lord on this great solemnity.

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. Come, let us adore the Lord on this great solemnity.

HYMN

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

> O Splendor of God's glory bright,
> O thou that bringest light from light,
> O Light of light, light's living spring,
> O Day, all days illumining!
>
> O thou true Sun, on us thy glance
> let fall in royal radiance;
> the Spirit's sanctifying beam
> upon our earthly senses stream.
>
> The Father, too, our prayers implore,
> Father of glory evermore;
> the Father of all grace and might,
> to banish sin from our delight.
>
> All laud to God the Father be;
> all praise, eternal Son, to thee;
> all glory, as is ever meet,
> to God the holy Paraclete.

PSALMODY

Psalm 22 *A Psalm of David Not Attributed*

> *Ant. Even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me.*

The Lord governs me, and nothing will be lacking for me; he has placed me in a place of pasture.

He has led me to the water of refreshment; he has converted my soul.

He has led me along the paths of justice, for the sake of his name.

For even if I walk in the midst of the shadow of death, I will not fear evil, for you are with me.

Your rod and your staff: these have comforted me.

You have prepared a table before me against those who trouble me.

You have anointed my head with oil, and my chalice which inebriates me, how excellent it is!

And your mercy will follow me all the days of my life. And so may I dwell in the house of the Lord 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. Even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me.*

Psalm 23 *The Lord Is My Shepherd*

> *Ant. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

The Lord governs me, and nothing will be lacking for me; he has placed me in a place of pasture.

He has led me to the water of refreshment; he has converted my soul.

He has led me along the paths of justice, for the sake of his name.

For even if I walk in the midst of the shadow of death, I will not fear evil, for you are with me.

Your rod and your staff: these have comforted me.

You have prepared a table before me against those who trouble me.

You have anointed my head with oil, and my chalice which inebriates me, how excellent it is!

And your mercy will follow me all the days of my life. And so may I dwell in the house of the Lord 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 is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

Psalm 24 *The King of Glory Enters*

> *Ant. Open wide your gates; let the King of glory in.*

The earth is the Lord's and its fullness: the world and all who dwell in it.

For he founded it upon the seas and prepared it upon the rivers.

Who will ascend the mountain of the Lord? Or who will stand in his holy place?

The innocent in hands and clean in heart, who has not received his soul in vain nor sworn deceitfully to his neighbor.

He will receive a blessing from the Lord and mercy from God his Savior.

This is the generation of those who seek him, of those who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up your gates, O princes, and be lifted up, O eternal gates, and the King of Glory will enter.

Who is this King of Glory? The Lord who is strong and powerful, the Lord powerful in battle.

Lift up your gates, O princes, and be lifted up, O eternal gates, and the King of Glory will enter.

Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of hosts; he is the King of Glory.

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. Open wide your gates; let the King of glory in.*

FIRST READING: SCRIPTURE

PROVERBS 8:6-7

Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

RESPONSORY

V. Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us.
R. Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us.
V. You who rose from the dead,
R. have mercy on us.

SECOND READING: PATRISTIC OR HAGIOGRAPHIC

Saint Catherine of Siena

The Dialogue, Chapter 1

The Soul's Petition

> A soul rises up, restless with tremendous desire for God's honor and the salvation of souls. She has for some time exercised herself in virtue and has become accustomed to dwelling in the cell of self-knowledge in order to know better God's goodness toward her, since upon knowledge follows love. And loving, she seeks to pursue truth and clothe herself in it. But there is no way she can so savor and be enlightened by this truth as in continual humble prayer, grounded in the knowledge of herself and of God. For by such prayer the soul is united with God, following in the footsteps of Christ crucified, and through desire and affection and the union of love he makes of her another himself. So Christ implies when he says: If you love me and keep my commandments, I will show myself to you, and you will be one thing with me and I with you. So in many of her prayers this soul sought, with holy longing in the presence of God, to know herself and to know the truth of God.

TE DEUM

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CONCLUDING PRAYER

Father of lights, illuminate our reading and our prayer, that the glory of Christ may shine more brightly in our hearts; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Let us praise the Lord.

And give him thanks.