Office of Readings

Friday, April 9, 2004

Good Friday — 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.

Psalm 58 *Rescue from Enemies*

> *Ant. Praise to you, Lord God, now and forever.*

Rescue me from my enemies, O my God, and protect me from those who rise up against me.

Rescue me from those who work iniquity, and save me from men of blood.

For behold they have caught my soul; the strong have rushed in upon me.

Neither is it my iniquity nor my sin, O Lord; without iniquity I have run and directed.

Rise up to meet me and see; and you, Lord God of hosts, the God of Israel.

Attend so as to visit all the Gentiles; do not spare any who work iniquity.

They will return in the evening and they will suffer hunger like dogs and will circle the city.

Behold, they will speak in their mouth, and a sword is on their lips.

"For who has heard us?"

But you, O Lord, will laugh at them; you will bring all the Gentiles to nothing.

I will keep my strength to you, for you, O God, are my support.

My God, his mercy will precede me.

God will let me see over my enemies; do not slay them, lest at some time my people forget.

Scatter them by your power and bring them down, O Lord, my shield.

The sin of their mouth, the word of their lips, and let them be caught in their pride.

And because of their cursing and lying, they will be proclaimed in consummation, in the wrath of consummation, and they will be no more.

And they will know that God will rule Jacob and all the ends of the earth.

They will return in the evening and will suffer hunger like dogs and will circle the city.

They will be dispersed to eat; but if they are not satisfied, they will murmur.

But I will sing your strength, and in the morning I will exult in your mercy.

For you have been my supporter and my refuge in the day of my tribulation.

You, my helper, I will sing to you; for you, O God, are my support, my God, my mercy.

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. Praise to you, Lord God, now and forever.*

Psalm 59 *Prayer After Defeat*

> *Ant. Praise to you, Lord God, now and forever.*

O God, you have rejected us and have destroyed us; you have been angry and you have shown mercy to us.

You have moved the earth and troubled it; heal its wounds, for it has been moved.

You have shown your people harsh things; you have given us wine of sorrow to drink.

You have given a sign to those who fear you, so that they may flee from before the bow, so that your beloved may be rescued.

Save with your right hand and hear me, so that those whom you love may be rescued.

God has spoken in his holy place; I will rejoice, and I will divide Shechem, and I will measure out the valley of tents.

Gilead is mine and Manasseh is mine; and Ephraim is the strength of my head.

Judah is my king; Moab, the pot of my hope.

Into Edom I will extend my shoe; the foreigners have been made subject to me.

Who will lead me into the reinforced city? Who will lead me even into Edom?

Will it not be you, O God, who have rejected us and will you not, O God, go out in our armies?

Give us help from tribulation; for the salvation of man is useless.

Through God we will be strengthened; and he will bring our enemies to nothing.

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. Praise to you, Lord God, now and forever.*

Psalm 60 *Confidence in God's Protection*

> *Ant. Praise to you, Lord God, now and forever.*

Hear, O God, my supplication; attend to my prayer.

I cried out to you from the ends of the earth, when my heart was in anguish; you have exalted me on a rock.

You have led me, for you have been my hope: a tower of strength against the face of the enemy.

I will dwell in your tabernacle forever; I will be covered under the cover of your wings.

For you, my God, have heard my prayer; you have given an inheritance to those who fear your name.

You will add days to the days of the king; his years will be even to the day of every generation.

He endures forever in the sight of God; who will seek the mercy and truth of him?

So I will sing a psalm to your name forever and ever, so that I may repay my vows from day to day.

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. Praise to you, Lord God, now and forever.*

FIRST READING: SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 55:10-11

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty.

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 John XXIII

Journal of a Soul

Obedience and Peace

> The older I grow, the more clearly I perceive the dignity and the winning beauty of simplicity in thought, conduct, and expression. I distrust all self-seeking motives, all cunning, and all vanity. I try to be wholly at God's disposal, with no desires and no special preferences of my own, content with everything, as regards persons, places, and circumstances. What I mean by simplicity is not naivety but the singleness of eye which the Lord speaks of in the Gospel. It is that holy simplicity which is the fruit of self-knowledge and of trustful surrender to God. It is not the simplicity of those who never think deeply, but of those who have thought deeply and have learned, through prayer and suffering and love, that there is only one thing necessary, and that is to do the will of God. Blessed are the simple in this sense: they see God in all things, and all things in God, and they are at peace.

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CONCLUDING PRAYER

God of all wisdom, as we pray the Office of Readings, grant us understanding that goes beyond mere knowledge, and faith that acts on what it believes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Let us praise the Lord.

And give him thanks.