Evening Prayer

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Saint Ephrem of Syria, Deacon and Doctor

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 Gracious Light

O gracious light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed;
now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Now let our voices join the song of those who stand before your throne,
while evening spreads her peaceful wings
and day's long labor nears its end.

Grant us, O Lord, a quiet night,
a clean heart, and a will made new;
and when the morning light returns,
may we arise and follow you.

Psalm 27 *Confidence in God*

> *Ant. Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call; have mercy on me and answer me.*

To you, O Lord, I will cry out; O my God, do not be silent before me. Lest you be silent before me, and I become like those who descend into the pit.

Hear, O Lord, the voice of my supplication, as I pray to you, as I lift up my hands toward your holy temple.

Do not draw me away together with sinners and with those who work iniquity; who speak peace with their neighbors, but evils are in their hearts.

Give them according to their works and according to the wickedness of their inventions.

According to the works of their hands, give to them; repay them what they deserve.

For they have not understood the works of the Lord and the works of his hands.

You will destroy them and will not build them up.

Blessed is the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication.

The Lord is my helper and my protector; in him my heart has hoped, and I have been helped.

And my flesh has flourished again; and with my will I will confess to him.

The Lord is the strength of his people and the protector of the salvation of his Christ.

Save your people, O Lord, and bless your inheritance, and govern them and exalt them 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. Hear, O Lord, the sound of my call; have mercy on me and answer me.*

Psalm 28 *The Voice of the Lord*

> *Ant. The Lord will bless his people with peace.*

Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord the offspring of rams; bring to the Lord glory and honor.

Bring to the Lord glory for his name; adore the Lord in his holy court.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of majesty has thundered.

The Lord is over many waters.

The voice of the Lord is in power; the voice of the Lord is in magnificence.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; indeed, the Lord will break the cedars of Lebanon.

And he will reduce them to small pieces, like a calf of Lebanon, and the beloved one will be like the son of the rhinoceros.

The voice of the Lord divides the flame of fire.

The voice of the Lord shakes the desert; and the Lord will shake the desert of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord prepares the stags and will reveal the dense forests; and in his temple all will speak his glory.

The Lord causes the flood to dwell; and the Lord will sit as king in eternity.

The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless his people with 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. The Lord will bless his people with peace.*

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

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Giving thanks to God the Father, who has made us worthy to be partakers of the lot of the saints in the light.

He has rescued us from the power of darkness, and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of his love,

in whom we have redemption through his blood, the remission of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.

For in him all things were created in the heavens and on earth, the visible and the invisible.

Whether thrones or dominations or principalities or powers, all things were created through him and in him.

And he exists before all others, and all things continue in him.

And he himself is the head of the body, the Church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,

so that he may hold the primacy in all things.

For it has pleased the Father that all fullness would dwell in him,

and that through him all things would be reconciled to himself, making peace through the blood of his cross, both as to the things on earth and the things in heaven.

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

1 PETER 5:10

> The God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory through Christ Jesus will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little.

RESPONSORY

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who made heaven and earth.

V. Blessed be the name of the Lord,

R. now and forever.

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

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

> *Ant. My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

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. My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

EVENING INTERCESSIONS

As evening comes, let us lift our hearts to God in prayer, saying:

For the holy church throughout the world, that it may be a sign of your love and a servant of your kingdom: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who exercised authority today, that their decisions may have served justice and the common good: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who worked in our communities today, especially those whose work is dangerous or poorly rewarded: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the sick and the suffering, for the lonely and the grieving, that the evening may bring them comfort: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who will not sleep safely tonight, for the homeless, the hungry, and those in danger, that your providence may reach them: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the faithful departed, especially those we remember with love, that they may rest in your peace: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

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

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; 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

SALVE REGINA

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy; our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.