Morning Prayer

Saturday, July 24, 2004

Saint Sharbel Makhluf, Priest

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

Morning Has Broken Upon Us

Now is the time of morning prayer,
when darkness yields to growing light;
we rise to greet the Lord who made
the day that follows holy night.

O God, whose word called forth the sun,
whose breath renews the face of earth,
grant us this day to walk in truth,
and fill our hearts with joy and worth.

We offer you this waking hour,
our work, our rest, our prayer, our praise;
guide all we think and do and say
through all the hours of this day.

Glory be to God on high,
to Christ the Lord, the living Son,
and to the Spirit, Comforter;
as ever was, and shall be done.

Psalm 119 *Grant Me Understanding (Gimel)*

> *Ant. Open my eyes to look upon the wonders of your law.*

Repay your servant; enliven me and I will keep your words.

Remove the veil from my eyes, and I will consider the wonders of your law.

I am a newcomer on the earth; do not hide your commandments from me.

My soul has longed to desire your justifications at all times.

You have rebuked the arrogant; those who decline from your commandments are cursed.

Remove from me reproach and contempt, for I have sought your testimonies.

For leaders were seated and spoke against me, but your servant was meditating on your justifications.

For your testimony is my meditation and your justifications are my counsel.

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 my eyes to look upon the wonders of your law.*

Psalm 121 *I Rejoiced When They Said to Me*

> *Ant. I was glad when they said to me: "Let us go to the house of the Lord."*

I rejoiced at the things that were said to me: "We will go into the house of the Lord."

Our feet were standing in your courts, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, which is built as a city, which is compact together.

For there the tribes went up, the tribes of the Lord; the testimony of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.

For there the thrones have sat in judgment, the thrones over the house of David.

Ask for the things that are for the peace of Jerusalem, and abundance for those who love you.

Let peace be in your strength, and abundance in your towers.

For the sake of my brethren and my neighbors, I spoke peace about you.

Because of the house of the Lord our God, I sought good things for you.

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. I was glad when they said to me: "Let us go to the house of the Lord."*

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE (BARUCH 1:15; 2:11–16)

Justice is with the Lord our God; but to us confusion of face this day.

And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a strong hand and with signs and with wonders, and with great power and with a stretched out arm.

And you have made yourself a name as at this day.

We have sinned, we have done wickedly, O Lord our God, against all your ordinances.

Let your indignation be turned away from us, for we are left a few among the nations where you have scattered us.

Hear, O Lord, our prayers and our petitions, and deliver us for your own sake.

And grant that we may find favor in the sight of those who have led us away,

that all the earth may know that you are the Lord our God, and that your name has been called upon Israel and upon his posterity.

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 7:12

> Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

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.

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

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

> *Ant. Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his 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. Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people.*

MORNING INTERCESSIONS

Let us offer our prayers to God as we begin this day, saying:

For the holy church throughout the world, that it may proclaim Christ faithfully and serve the poor generously: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our bishop and all who lead us in faith, that they may shepherd their flocks with wisdom and compassion: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the leaders of nations and all in authority, that they may govern with justice and work for the common good: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit, that they may know the comfort of your presence: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all who labor this day, that their work may be dignified and their families protected: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the grace to seek you in all things today, to see your face in every person we meet, and to love as you have loved us: 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

Father of mercies, grant that what we begin with prayer we may continue with diligence and bring to completion with devotion; 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.