Office of Readings

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Easter, Week 3 — Thursday

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. Alleluia! The Lord is risen. Come, let us adore him. Alleluia!

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. Alleluia! The Lord is risen. Come, let us adore him. Alleluia!

HYMN

The Day of Resurrection

> The day of resurrection!
> Earth, tell it out abroad;
> the Passover of gladness,
> the Passover of God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 55 *In God I Trust*

> *Ant. This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. Alleluia.*

Have mercy on me, O God, for man has trampled on me; all day long he has afflicted me, fighting against me.

My enemies have trampled on me all day long; for many who fight against me are from on high.

In the day when I am afraid, I will hope in you.

In God I will praise my words; in God I have hoped, I will not fear what flesh can do to me.

All day long they have detested my words; all their thoughts are against me for evil.

They will dwell and hide themselves; they will watch my heel, just as they waited for my soul.

For nothing, you will save them; in your anger you will break the peoples, O God.

I have announced my life to you; you have set my tears in your sight, as also in your promise.

Then my enemies will be turned back, on whatever day I will call upon you.

Behold, I know that you are my God.

In God I will praise the word; in the Lord I will praise his speech.

In God I have hoped; I will not fear what man can do to me.

In me, O God, are the vows you will receive; I will render praises to you.

For you have rescued my soul from death, and my feet from falling, so that I may be pleasing before God in the light 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. This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. Alleluia.*

Psalm 56 *Steadfast Trust in God*

> *Ant. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed; let us therefore celebrate the feast. Alleluia.*

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me; for my soul trusts in you.

And in the shadow of your wings I will hope, until iniquity passes by.

I will cry out to the most high God, the God who has benefited me.

He has sent from heaven and rescued me; he gave over to reproach those who trampled on me.

God has sent his mercy and his truth, and he has rescued my soul from the midst of the lion cubs.

I have slept troubled; the sons of men, their teeth are weapons and arrows, and their tongue is a sharp sword.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and your glory above all the earth.

They have prepared a snare for my feet, and they have bowed down my soul.

They have dug a pit before my face, and they fell into it.

My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready; I will sing and compose a psalm.

Arise, my glory; arise, psaltery and harp; I will arise in the early morning.

I will confess to you among the peoples, O Lord, and I will compose a psalm to you among the nations.

For your mercy has been magnified, even to the heavens, and your truth even to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and your glory above all the earth.

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. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed; let us therefore celebrate the feast. Alleluia.*

Psalm 57 *Rescue from the Wicked*

> *Ant. Death is swallowed up in victory; thanks be to God who gives us the victory. Alleluia.*

If truly you speak justice, judge what is right, O sons of men.

For in your heart you work iniquity on the earth; your hands weave injustices.

The wicked have become estranged from the womb; they have wandered astray from the womb; they have spoken false things.

Their fury is like that of a serpent; like that of a deaf asp, stopping up its ears.

Which will not hear the voice of the enchanters, nor of the wizard casting spells wisely.

God will crush their teeth in their mouth; the Lord will break the molars of the lions.

They will come to nothing, like water flowing away; he has bent his bow until they are weakened.

Like wax that is melted, they will be taken away; fire has fallen upon them, and they will not see the sun.

Before your thorns could perceive the bramble, he swallows them up as if alive, as if in wrath.

The just will rejoice when he has seen the retribution, he will wash his hands in the blood of the sinner.

And a man will say: "Truly there is a fruit to the just one; truly there is a God judging them on the earth."

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. Death is swallowed up in victory; thanks be to God who gives us the victory. Alleluia.*

FIRST READING: SCRIPTURE

COLOSSIANS 3:1-2

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

RESPONSORY

V. This is the day that the Lord has made. Alleluia.

R. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia.

V. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

R. his love endures forever. Alleluia.

SECOND READING: PATRISTIC OR HAGIOGRAPHIC

Saint Gregory of Nazianzus

Oration 45, On Pascha

Yesterday I Was Crucified With Him

> Yesterday I was crucified with him; today I am glorified with him. Yesterday I died with him; today I am quickened with him. Yesterday I was buried with him; today I rise with him. Let us offer ourselves to him who suffered and rose again for us. Let us become divine for his sake, since for us he became man. He assumed the worse that he might give us the better; he became poor that we through his poverty might be rich; he took upon himself the form of a servant that we might receive back our liberty; he came down that we might be exalted; he was tempted that we might conquer; he was dishonored that he might glorify us; he died that he might save us; he ascended that he might draw to himself us, who were lying low in the fall of sin. Let us give all, offer all, to him who gave himself a ransom and reconciliation for us. But nothing can equal the grace. For this reason and for us, the Second Adam sat down in heaven. He is far better and higher than the first. So let us keep Easter, then, not as a festival of the flesh, but as a festival of the spirit.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord, the Office of Readings in this Easter season rings with alleluias. Grant us joy as we pray, and let that joy overflow into all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Let us praise the Lord.
And give him thanks.