Evening Prayer

Monday, July 24, 2006

Saint Sharbel Makhluf, Priest

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 89 *The Eternal God and Mortal Man (Part I)*

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

Lord, you have been our refuge from generation to generation.

Before the mountains were made, or the earth and the world were formed, from eternity and unto eternity, you are God.

Do not turn man away to degradation. And you said: "Be converted, O sons of men."

For a thousand years in your sight are like the day of yesterday, which has passed away.

And like a watch in the night; these things will be held as nothing.

Their years will be like those of one who considers them to be nothing.

In the morning he will pass away like grass; in the morning he will flourish and pass away.

In the evening he will fall; he will become hard and will wither.

For in your wrath we have languished, and in your fury we have been troubled.

You have set our iniquities before you; our age is in the light of your countenance.

For all our days have declined, and in your wrath we have languished.

Our years will be meditated upon like a spider; the days of our years in their fullness are seventy years.

But if in the powerful they are eighty years, and furthermore those are labor and sorrow.

For mildness came over us, and we will be corrected.

Who knows the power of your wrath? And how can anyone number your wrath because of your fear?

So make your right hand known, and those who are learned in heart, in wisdom.

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 89 *The Eternal God and Mortal Man (Part II)*

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

Return, O Lord, how long? And be appeased over your servants.

We have been filled in the morning with your mercy, and we have exulted and been delighted all our days.

We have rejoiced for the days in which you have humbled us, for the years in which we have seen evils.

Look upon your servants and upon their works, and direct their sons.

And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and direct the works of our hands over us.

Yes, direct the work of our hands.

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.*

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE (REVELATION 19:1–7)

Alleluia! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.

For his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication.

And he has avenged the blood of his servants from her hands.

Alleluia! And her smoke ascends forever and ever.

And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and adored God, seated upon the throne, saying: Amen. Alleluia.

And a voice went out from the throne, saying: "Give praise to our God, all you servants of God, and those who fear him, the small and the great."

And I heard as if a voice of a great multitude, and like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of great thunders, saying: "Alleluia! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, has reigned."

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give glory to him; for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife has prepared herself."

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

COLOSSIANS 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

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

Lord God, as evening comes upon us, we thank you for the blessings of this day. Forgive us where we have fallen short, and grant us your peace through the night; 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.