Evening Prayer

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Saint Nicholas of Myra, Bishop

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 Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

Psalm 27 *Confidence in God*

> *Ant. Let justice surge like water, and goodness like an unfailing stream.*

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. Let justice surge like water, and goodness like an unfailing stream.*

Psalm 28 *The Voice of the Lord*

> *Ant. Let justice surge like water, and goodness like an unfailing stream.*

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. Let justice surge like water, and goodness like an unfailing stream.*

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE (COLOSSIANS 1:12–20)

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

ISAIAH 40:9–10

> Cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of glad tidings. Behold, your God comes with power, his arm bringing him authority; his reward is with him, his recompense before him.

RESPONSORY

V. Come and set us free, Lord God of power.

R. Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

V. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,

R. and grant us your salvation.

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

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

> *Ant. The Lord will come; go out to meet him, saying: "Great is his dominion, and his peace will have no end."*

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. The Lord will come; go out to meet him, saying: "Great is his dominion, and his peace will have no end."*

EVENING INTERCESSIONS

As evening falls during this holy season of waiting, let us pray to the Lord who comes, saying:

For the church, that our Advent waiting may be active and hopeful, not passive or fearful: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Come, Lord Jesus.*

For those who hunger for justice and for peace, that the promise of your kingdom may sustain them: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Come, Lord Jesus.*

For the sick and those who care for them, that the healing touch of Christ may be near: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Come, Lord Jesus.*

For all who will travel during this season, that they may journey safely: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Come, Lord Jesus.*

For those who have died, especially those we remember in our hearts this evening, that they may share in the joy of the Lord's coming: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Come, Lord Jesus.*

For our parish community, that our Advent journey together may prepare us well for the joy of Christmas: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Come, Lord Jesus.*

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, prepare our hearts for the great gift of Christmas. As we grow closer to that holy day, increase in us the spirit of expectation and the readiness to receive your Son with joy; through the same 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

ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

Loving Mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, assist your people who have fallen, yet strive to rise again. To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before. You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.