Evening Prayer

Sunday, March 25, 2007

The Annunciation of the Lord

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

Lift High the Cross

In the evening of this day, O Lord, we come to you,
contrite hearts and broken spirits, seeking to be made new;
for our sins are heavy burdens, and the way is long and steep;
grant us mercy, Lord, and pardon, as we cry to you and weep.

Let the cross of Jesus be the sign before our eyes,
his great love poured out in sorrow, his great death our sacrifice;
and the stone rolled back in glory, and the tomb forever bare:
this the sign that sins are conquered, this the gift beyond compare.

Now the evening lamps are lighted, and the darkness gathers near;
grant us peace beyond all asking, keep us safe from doubt and fear;
in the night may angels watch us, and at morning may we rise
to the glory of your mercy shining bright before our eyes.

Psalm 110 *The Lord Said to My Lord*

> *Ant. In you, O Lord, have I trusted; let me never be confounded.*

The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I place your enemies as a footstool for your feet."

The Lord will send forth from Zion the scepter of your power; rule in the midst of your enemies.

With you is the principality on the day of your strength among the holy splendors; from the womb, before the daystar, I begot you.

The Lord has sworn and he will not repent: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedech."

The Lord is at your right hand; he has crushed kings on the day of his wrath.

He will judge the nations; he will fill ruins; he will crush heads in the land of many.

He will drink from the torrent on the way; therefore he will exalt the head.

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. In you, O Lord, have I trusted; let me never be confounded.*

Psalm 114 *Praise for God's Deliverance*

> *Ant. In you, O Lord, have I trusted; let me never be confounded.*

I have loved, because the Lord will hear the voice of my prayer.

Because he has inclined his ear to me, and in my days I will call upon him.

The sorrows of death have surrounded me, and the perils of hell have found me.

I met with tribulation and sorrow, and I called upon the name of the Lord.

"O Lord, free my soul."

The Lord is merciful and just, and our God has mercy.

The Lord is the keeper of little ones; I was humbled and he freed me.

Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has benefited you.

For he has rescued my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from falling.

I will please the Lord in the land 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.

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NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

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Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not consider being equal to God something to be seized.
Instead, he emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made into the likeness of men, and found to be a man in his condition.
He humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, even the death of the cross.
Because of this, God also has exalted him and has given him a name which is above every name,
so that, at the name of Jesus, every knee would bend, of those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth,
and so that every tongue would confess that the Lord Jesus Christ is in the glory of God the Father.

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

LAMENTATIONS 3:22–23

The favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; they are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness.

RESPONSORY

V. Turn to me, O Lord, and have mercy on me.
R. Give your strength to your servant.
V. Do not forsake me, O Lord;
R. be not far from me, O my God.

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

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

> *Ant. Turn to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.*

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. Turn to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.*

EVENING INTERCESSIONS

At the close of this Lenten day, let us lay our prayers before the Lord, saying:

For the church, that this Lenten season may lead to a deeper love of God and neighbor: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, have mercy.*

For catechumens preparing for Easter baptism, that their formation in faith may be fruitful: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, have mercy.*

For those suffering from addiction, violence, or poverty, that they may find relief and support: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, have mercy.*

For those we have hurt or neglected, that God may heal the wounds we have caused: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, have mercy.*

For all who are dying, that they may face death with hope and peace: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, have mercy.*

For the faithful departed, that they may come to the fullness of life: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Lord, have mercy.*

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 all mercies, as Holy Week approaches, prepare our hearts to walk the way of the cross with your Son, that we may share in the joy of his resurrection; 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

AVE REGINA CAELORUM

Hail, O Queen of heaven enthroned! Hail, by angels Mistress owned! Root of Jesse, Gate of morn, whence the world's true Light was born: glorious Virgin, joy to thee, loveliest whom in heaven they see: fairest thou where

all are fair, plead with Christ our sins to spare.