Morning Prayer for Monday after the Fourth Sunday in Lent

(Monday after the Fourth Sunday in Lent)

Fore-Office

The Invitatory and Psalter

V: Lord, open our lips.  
R: And our mouth shall 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 for ever. Amen.

Psalm 95

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.

Come, let us sing to the LORD; *  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.

For the LORD is a great God, *  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *  
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.

*The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.*

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the LORD our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

*The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.*

Harden not your hearts,
as your forebears did in the wilderness, *
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,
when they tempted me.
They put me to the test,*
though they had seen my works.

*The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.*

Forty years long I detested that generation and said, *
"This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways."
So I swore in my wrath,*
"They shall not enter into my rest."

*The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: Come let us adore him.*

The Psalm or Psalms Appointed
Psalm 89: Part I *Misericordias Domini*

1 Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; *
   from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
   you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
3 I have made a covenant with my chosen one; *
   I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
4 'I will establish your line for ever, *
   and preserve your throne for all generations.'"
5 The heavens bear witness to your wonders, O LORD, *
   and to your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones;
6 For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? *
   who is like the LORD among the gods?
7 God is much to be feared in the council of the holy ones, *
   great and terrible to all those round about him.
8 Who is like you, LORD God of hosts? *
   O mighty LORD, your faithfulness is all around you.
9 You rule the raging of the sea *
   and still the surging of its waves.
10 You have crushed Rahab of the deep with a deadly wound; *
   you have scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.
11 Yours are the heavens; the earth also is yours; *
   you laid the foundations of the world and all that is in it.
12 You have made the north and the south; *
   Tabor and Hermon rejoice in your Name.
13 You have a mighty arm; *
   strong is your hand and high is your right hand.
14 Righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne; *
   love and truth go before your face.
15 Happy are the people who know the festal shout! *
   they walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.
16 They rejoice daily in your Name; *
   they are jubilant in your righteousness.
17 For you are the glory of their strength, *
   and by your favor our might is exalted.
18 Truly, the LORD is our ruler; *
   The Holy One of Israel is our King.
The Lessons

A reading from Genesis 49:1-28 (NRSV)

Then Jacob called his sons, and said: "Gather around, that I may tell you what will happen to you in days to come. Assemble and hear, O sons of Jacob; listen to Israel your father. Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might and the first fruits of my vigor, excelling in rank and excelling in power. Unstable as water, you shall no longer excel because you went up onto your father's bed; then you defiled it-- you went up onto my couch! Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords. May I never come into their council; may I not be joined to their company-- for in their anger they killed men, and at their whim they hamstrung oxen. Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce, and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel. Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He crouches down, he stretches out like a lion, like a lioness-- who dares rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and the obedience of the peoples is his. Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he washes his garments in wine and his robe in the blood of grapes; his eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk. Zebulun shall settle at the shore of the sea; he shall be a haven for ships, and his border shall be at Sidon. Issachar is a strong donkey, lying down between the sheepfolds; he saw that a resting place was good, and that the land was pleasant; so he bowed his shoulder to the burden, and became a slave at forced labor. Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel. Dan shall be a snake by the roadside, a viper along the path, that bites the horse's heels so that its rider falls backward. I wait for your salvation, O LORD. Gad shall be raided by raiders, but he shall raid at their heels. Asher's food shall be rich, and he shall provide royal delicacies. Naphtali is a doe let loose that bears lovely fawns. Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; his branches run over the wall. The archers fiercely attacked him; they shot at him and pressed him hard. Yet his bow remained taut, and his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob, by the name of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel, by the God of your father, who will help you, by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lies beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father are stronger than the blessings of the
eternal mountains, the bounties of the everlasting hills; may they be on the head of Joseph, on the brow of him who was set apart from his brothers. Benjamin is a ravenous wolf, in the morning devouring the prey, and at evening dividing the spoil." All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them, blessing each one of them with a suitable blessing.

Here ends the Reading.

The First Song of Isaiah Ecce, Deus
Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A reading from 1 Corinthians 10:14-11:1 (NRSV)

Therefore, my dear friends, flee from the worship of idols. I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices partners in the altar? What do I imply then? That food sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be partners with demons. You cannot drink
the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Or are we provoking the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he? "All things are lawful," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. Do not seek your own advantage, but that of the other. Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience, for "the earth and its fullness are the Lord's." If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, out of consideration for the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience-- I mean the other's conscience, not your own. For why should my liberty be subject to the judgment of someone else's conscience? If I partake with thankfulness, why should I be denounced because of that for which I give thanks? So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, so that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Here ends the Reading.

The Song of the Redeemed Magna et mirabilia
Revelation 15:3-4

O ruler of the universe, Lord God,
great deeds are they that you have done, *
surpassing human understanding.
Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, *
O King of all the ages.
Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,
and sing the praises of your Name? *
for you only are the Holy One.
All nations will draw near and fall down before you, *
because your just and holy works have been revealed.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.
The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

V: The Lord be with you.  
R: And also with you.  
Let us pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Suffrages A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. And grant us your salvation.  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. Let your people sing with joy.  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in you can we live in safety.  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Collect of the Day

O Lord our God, in your holy Sacraments you have given us a foretaste of the good things of your kingdom: Direct us, we pray, in the way that leads to eternal life, that we may come to appear before you in that place of light where you dwell for ever with your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Commemoration of Gregory the Illuminator, Bishop and Missionary, c. 332

Well done, my good and faithful servant; since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.

V. The Lord guided the righteous in right paths.
R. And showed him the kingdom of God.

Almighty God, who raised up your servant Gregory to be a light in the world, and to preach the Gospel to the people of Armenia: Illuminate our hearts, that we also in our own generation may show forth your praise, who called us out of darkness and into your marvelous light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Collect for the Renewal of Life

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness while it was day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for Mission

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*