

The vigil of St. Lawrence has been observed in the Church certainly since the Fourth Century. The ancient vigils consisted of a fixed number of scriptural Lessons alternated with responsorial Psalms and episcopal Collects. When day began to break, the Holy Sacrifice was offered and the fast came to an end.

Commemoration of St. Romanus, Martyr: St. Romanus was a Roman soldier. He was converted to the Christian faith by the preaching of St. Lawrence, and was beheaded the day preceding that of the saint's martyrdom.

INTROIT Psalms 111: 9

Dispérsit, dedit paupéribus: justítia ejus manet in sæculum sæculi: cornu ejus exaltábitur in glória. (Ps. 111:1) Beátus vir, qui timet Dóminum: in mandátis ejus cupit nimis. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Dispérsit, dedit paupéribus: justítia ejus manet in sæculum sæculi: cornu ejus exaltábitur in glória.

COLLECT

Adésto, Dómine, supplicatióibus nostris: et intercessióne beáti Lauréntii Mártyris tui, cujus prævenimus festivitátem; perpétuam nobis misericórdiam benígnus impénde. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of St. Romanus, Martyr)

Præsta, quæsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut, intercedénte beáto Románo Mártyre tuo, et a cunctis adversitatibus liberémur in corpore, et a pravis cogitatióibus mundémur in mente. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Ecclesiasticus 51: 1-8, 12

Confitébor tibi, Dómine, Rex, et collaudábo te Deum, Salvatórem meum. Confitébor nómini tuo: quóniam adjútor et protéctor factus es mihi, et liberásti corpus meum a perditióne, a láqueo linguæ iníquæ et a lábiis operántium mendácium, et in conspéctu astántium factus es mihi adjútor. Et liberásti me secúndum multitudinem misericórdiæ nóminis tui a rugiéntibus, præparáti ad escam, de mánibus quæréntium ánimam meam, et de portis tribulatiónum, quæ circumdedérunt me: a pressúra flammæ, quæ circumdedit me, et in médio ignis non sum æstuátus: de altitúdine ventris ínferi, et a lingua coinquináta, et a verbo mendácii, a rege iníquo, et a lingua injústa: laudábit usque ad mortem ánima mea Dóminum: quóniam éruis sustinéntes te, et líberas eos de mánibus géntium, Dómine, Deus noster.

GRADUAL Psalms 111: 9, 2

Dispérsit, dedit paupéribus: justítia ejus manet in sæculum sæculi. Potens in terra erit semen ejus: generatio rectórum benedicétur.

GOSPEL Matthew 16: 24-27

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discíplulis suis: Si quis vult post me venire, ábneget semetípsum, et tollat crucem suam, et sequátur me. Qui enim volúerit ánimam suam salvam fácere, perdet eam: qui autem perdíderit ánimam suam propter me, invéniet eam. Quid enim prodest hómini, si mundum univérsum lucrétur, ánimæ vero suæ detriméntum patiátur? Aut quam dabit homo commutatiónem pro ánima sua? Fílius enim hóminis ventúrus est in glória Patris sui cum Ángelis suis: et tunc reddet unicuíque secúndum ópera ejus.

OFFERTORY Job 16: 20

Orátio mea munda est: et ideo peto, ut detur locus voci meæ in cælo: quia ibi est iudex meus, et cóncius meus in excélsis: ascéndat ad Dóminum deprecátio mea.

SECRET

Hóstias, Dómine, quas tibi offérimus, propítius súscipe: et, intercedénte beáto Lauréntio Mártyre tuo, víncula peccatórum nostrórum absólve. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of St. Romanus, Martyr)

Munéribus nostris, quæsumus, Dómine, precibúsq;e suscéptis: et cæléstibus nos munda mystériis, et cleménter exáudi. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Matthew 16: 24

Qui vult veníre post me, ábneget semetípsum, et tollat crucem suam, et sequátur me.

POSTCOMMUNION

Da, quæsumus, Dómine, Deus noster: ut, sicut beáti Lauréntii Mártyris tui commemoratióne, temporáli gratulámur offício; ita perpétuo lætémur aspéctu. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of St. Romanus, Martyr)

Quæsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut, qui cælestia aliménta percépimus, intercedénte beáto Románo Mártyre tuo, per hæc contra ómnia advérsa muniámur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

He hath distributed, he hath given to the poor: his justice remaineth forever and ever; his horn shall be exalted in glory. (Ps. 111: 1) Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; he delighteth exceedingly in His commandments. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. He hath distributed, he hath given to the poor: his justice remaineth forever and ever; his horn shall be exalted in glory.

Attend, O Lord, to our supplications, and by the intercession of Thy blessed martyr, Lawrence, whose feast we anticipate, graciously bestow upon us Thy everlasting mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O almighty God, that by the intercession of blessed Romanus, Thy martyr, we may be delivered from all adversities in body, and be purified from all evil thoughts in mind. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

I will give glory to Thee, O Lord, O King, and I will praise Thee, O God my Savior. I will give glory to Thy Name, for Thou hast been a helper and protector to me, and hast preserved my body from destruction, from the snare of an unjust tongue, and from the lips of them that forge lies; and in the sight of them that stood by Thou hast been my helper. And Thou hast delivered me, according to the multitude of the mercy of Thy Name, from them that did roar, prepared to devour; out of the hands of them that sought my life, and from the gates of afflictions which compassed me about: from the oppression of the flame which surrounded me, and in the midst of the fire I was not burnt: from the depth of the body of hell, and from an unclean tongue, and from lying words, from an unjust king, and from a slanderous tongue. My soul shall praise the Lord even unto death: because Thou, O Lord our God, deliverest them that wait for Thee, and savest them out of the hands of the nations.

He hath distributed, he hath given to the poor: his justice remaineth forever and ever. His seed shall be mighty upon earth; the generation of the righteous shall be blessed.

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For he that will save his life, shall lose it: and he that shall lose his life for My sake, shall find it. For what doth it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his own soul? Or what exchange shall a man give for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels: and then will He render to every man according to his works.

My prayer is pure, and therefore I ask that a place may be given to my voice in heaven: for there is my judge, and He that knoweth my conscience is on high: let my prayer ascend to the Lord.

Mercifully receive, O Lord, the sacrifices which we offer Thee, and by the intercession of blessed Lawrence, Thy martyr, loose the bonds of our sins. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, to receive our offerings and prayers; and by Thy heavenly mysteries cleanse us and mercifully hear us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

He that will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord, our God, that, as in commemorating blessed Lawrence, Thy martyr, we show our joy in a temporal duty, so we may be gladdened by beholding him in eternity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

We beseech Thee, almighty God, that we who have partaken of the food of heaven may, by the intercession of blessed Romanus, Thy martyr, be strengthened by it against all harm. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.