

JANUARY 15, ST. PAUL, FIRST HERMIT, CONFESSOR

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In the middle of the Third Century, St. Paul, a native of Egypt, fled into the desert, at the age of twenty-two, to escape the persecution that Emperor Decius waged against Christians. There he devoted his life to penance and prayer. He passed nearly a hundred years in solitude, and from the time he was forty-three years old his food was brought to him by ravens. The emblem of the Hermits of St. Paul was a palm-tree; in the Mass of today frequent graceful allusions are made to this providential tree which furnished both food and clothing to our saint, and which by its spreading branches so truly symbolized in holy Scripture the supernatural energy of the just. He died about 341, wrapped in the cloak of St. Athanasius lent to him by St. Anthony of the Desert.

(Commemoration of St. Maurus, Abbot) St. Maurus, son of the Roman patrician Eutychius and first disciple of St. Benedict, according to the Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great, hastening in obedience to help St. Placid, who was drowning, walked upon Nero's lake at Subiaco. Died in 584, in France.

INTROIT Psalms 91: 13-14

Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus Líbani multiplicábitur: plantátus in domo Dómini: in átriis domus Dei nostri. (Ps. 91: 2) Bonum est confitéri Dómino: et psállere Nómimi tuo, Altíssime. Glória Patri et Filio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus Líbani multiplicábitur: plantátus in domo Dómini: in átriis domus Dei nostri.

COLLECT

Deus, qui nos beáti Pauli Confessóris tui ánnua sollemnitate lætíficas: concéde propítius; ut, cujus natalítia cólimus, étiam actiónes imitémur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of St. Maur, Abbot)

Intercéssio nos, quæsumus, Dómine, beáti Mauri Abbátis commédet: ut, quod nostris méritis non valémus, ejus patrocínio assequámur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE Philippians 3: 7-12

Fratres: Quæ mihi fuérunt lucra, hæc arbitrátus sum propter Christum defriménta. Verúmtamen existímo ómnia detriméntum esse propter eminentem sciéntiam Jesu Christi, Dómini mei: propter quem ómnia detriméntum feci et árbitor ut stércora, ut Christum lucrifáciam et invéniam in illo, non habens meam justítiam, quæ ex lege est, sed illam, quæ ex fide est Christi Jesu: quæ ex Deo est justítia in fide, ad cognoscéndum illum, et virtútem resurrectiónis ejus, et societátem passiónum illíus: configurátus morti ejus: si quo modo occúrram ad resurrectiónem, quæ est ex mórtuis: non quod iam accéperim aut iam perféctus sim: sequor autem, si quo modo comprehéndam, in quo et comprehénsus sum a Christo Jesu.

GRADUAL Psalms 91: 13-14, 3

Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus Líbani multiplicábitur in domo Dómini. Annuntiándum mane misericórdiam tuam, et veritátem tuam per noctem.

LESSER ALLELUIA Hosea 14: 6

Allelúja, allelúja. Justus germinábit sicut lílium: et florébit in ætérnum ante Dóminum. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 11: 25-30

In illo témpore: Respóndens Jesus, dixit: Confíteor tibi, Pater, Dómine coeli et terræ, quia abscondísti hæc a sapiéntibus ei prudéntibus, et revelásti ea párvulis. Ita, Pater: quóniam sic fuit plácitum ante te. Omnia mihi trádicta sunt a Patre meo. Et nemo novit Filium nisi Pater: neque Patrem quis novit nisi Filius, et cui volúerit Filius reveláre. Veníte ad me, omnes, qui laborátis et onerátí estis, et ego reficiam vos. Tóllite jugum meum super vos, et discite a me, quia mitis sum et húmilis corde: et inveniétis réquiem animábus vestris. Jugum enim meum suáve est et onus meum leve.

OFFERTORY Psalms 20: 2-3

In virtúte tua, Dómine, lætábitur justus, et super salutáre tuum exsultábit veheménter: desidérium animæ ejus tribuísti ei.

SECRET

Laudis tibi, Dómine, hóstias immolámus in tuórum commemoratióne Sanctórum: quibus nos et præsentibus éxui malis confidimus et futúris. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of St. Maur, Abbot)

Sacris altáribus, Dómine, hóstias superpósitas sanctus Maurus Abbas, quæsumus, in salútem muniámur et depéscat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Psalms 63: 11

Lætábitur justus in Dómino, et sperábit in eo: et laudabúntur omnes recti corde.

POSTCOMMUNION

Refécti cibo potúque coeléstí, Deus noster, te súpplices exorámus: ut, in cujus hæc commemoratióne percépimus, ejus muniámur et précibus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of St. Maur, Abbot)

Prótegat nos, Dómine, cum tui percéptione sacraménti beátus Maurus Abbas, pro nobis intercedéndo: ut et conversatiónis ejus experiámur insignia, et intercessiónis percipiámur suffrágia. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

The just shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow up like the cedar of Libanus: planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. (Ps. 91: 2) It is good to give praise to the Lord: and to sing to Thy Name, O Most High. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. The just shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow up like the cedar of Libanus: planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

O God, Who dost gladden us with the yearly solemnity of blessed Paul, Thy Confessor, mercifully grant that we may imitate his actions whose natal day we honor. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Let the intercession of the blessed abbot Maurus commend us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that we may receive through his patronage what we could not obtain by our own deserts. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Brethren: The things that were gain to me, these, for the sake of Christ, I have counted loss. Nay more, I count everything loss because of the excelling knowledge of Jesus Christ, my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I count them as dung that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a justice of my own, which is from the Law, but that which is from faith in Christ, the justice from God based upon faith; so that I may know Him and the power of His Resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings: become like to Him in death, in the hope that somehow I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this, or already have been made perfect, but I press on hoping that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me.

The just man shall flourish like the palm tree, like a cedar of Lebanon shall he grow in the house of the Lord. To proclaim Thy kindness at dawn and Thy faithfulness throughout the night.

Alleluia, alleluia. The just man shall blossom like the lily, and flourish forever before the Lord. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus spoke and said, I praise Thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them to little ones. Yea, Father, for so it hath seemed good in Thy sight. All things have been delivered to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and him to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden light.

In Thy strength, O Lord, the just man shall joy, and in Thy salvation he shall rejoice exceedingly: Thou hast given him his heart's desire.

O Lord, in memory of Thy saints, we offer Thee sacrifices of praise, trusting them to deliver us from both present and future evils. 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, that, by his prayers the holy abbot Maurus may obtain that the sacrifices laid upon the sacred altars may profit for our salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

The just man is glad in the Lord and takes refuge in Him; all the upright of heart shall be praised.

Filled with heavenly food and drink, we humbly pray Thee, our God, that we may be helped by the prayers of him in whose memory we have received Thy sacrament. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

May the blessed abbot Maurus, by his intercession, together with the partaking of the sacrament, protect us, O Lord, that we may experience the effects of communion with him and share his intercessory prayers. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.