

JANUARY 25, CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

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(Station at St. Paul) Since the eighth century the feast of the conversion of St. Paul has been set apart by the Church to return thanks to almighty God for His act of grace in bringing the future apostle to the Faith. At one time the feast was even a holy-day of obligation. After the miracle of Christ's Resurrection, no other wonder in the history of the early Church is a stronger proof of the divine origin of Christianity than the marvelous conversion of St. Paul.

INTROIT 2 Timothy 1: 12

Scio, cui credidi, et certus sum, quia potens est depósitum meum serváre in illum diem, justus iudex. (Ps 138: 1-2) Dómine, probásti me et cognovísti me: tu cognovísti sessionem meam et resurrectionem meam. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Scio, cui credidi, et certus sum, quia potens est depósitum meum serváre in illum diem, justus iudex.

COLLECT

Deus, qui univérsum mundum beáti Pauli Apóstoli prædicatióne docuísti: da nobis, quæsumus; ut, qui ejus hódie Conversiõnem cõlimus, per ejus ad te exémpa gradiámur.

Pro Sancto Petro

Deus, qui beáto Petro Apostolo tuo, collátis clavibus regni cæléstis, ligandi atque solvendi pontificium tradidisti: concéde; ut, intercessiõnis ejus auxilió, a peccatórum nostrórum nexibus liberémur: Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Acts 9: 1-22

In diébus illis: Saulus adhuc spirans minárum et cædis in discipulos Dómini, accés sit ad princípem sacerdotum, et pènit ab eo epístolas in Damáscum ad synagógas: ut, si quos invenísset hujus viæ viros ac mulieres, vinctos perdúceret in Jerúsalem. Et cum iter fáceret, cõntigit, ut appropinquáret Damáscus: et súbito circumfúlsit eum lux de coelo. Et cadens in terram, audióvit vocem dicentem sibi: Saule, Saule, quid me perséqueris? Qui dixit: Quis es, Dómine? Et ille: Ego sum Jesus, quem tu perséqueris: durum est tibi contra stímulum calcitráre. Et tremens ac stupens, dixit: Dómine, quid me vis fácere? Et Dóminus ad eum: Surge et ingrédere civitátem, et ibi dicétur tibi, quid te opórteat fácere. Viri autem illi, qui comitábantur cum eo, stabant stupefacti, audiéntes quidem vocem, néminem autem vidéntes. Surrexit autem Saulus de terra, apertisque óculis nihil vidébat. Ad manus autem illum trahéntes, introduxérunt Damáscum. Et erat ibi tribus diébus non videns, et non manducávit neque bibit. Erat autem quidam discipulus Damásci, nómine Ananías: et dixit ad illum in visu Dóminus: Ananía. At ille ait: Ecce ego, Dómine. Et Dóminus ad eum: Surge et vade in vicum, qui vocátur Rectus: et quære in domo Judæi Saulum nómine Tarsensem: ecce enim orat. Et vidit virum, Ananiám nómine, introeúntem et imponéntem sibi manus, ut visum recipiat. Respóndit autem Ananías: Dómine, audií a multis de viro hoc, quanta mala fécerit sanctis tuis in Jerúsalem: et hic habet potestátem a princípibus sacerdotum alligandi omnes, qui invocant nomen tuum. Dixit autem ad eum Dóminus: Vade, quóniam vas electiõnis est mihi iste, ut portet nomen meum coram gèntibus et régibus et filiis Israël. Ego enim osténdam illi, quanta opórteat eum pro nómine meo pati. Et ábiit Ananías et introívit in domum: et impónens ei manus, dixit: Saule frater, Dóminus misit me Jesus, qui apparúit tibi in via, qua veniébas, ut vídeas et impleáris Spíritu Sancto. Ei conféstim ceciderunt ab óculis ejus tamquam squamæ, et visum recépit: et surgens baptizátus est. Et cum accepisset cibum, confortátus est. Fuit autem cum discipulis, qui erant Damásci, per dies áliquot. Et continuo in synagógis prædicábat Jesum, quóniam hic est Fílius Dei. Stupébant autem omnes, qui audiébant, et dicébant: Nonne hic est, qui expugnábat in Jerúsalem eos, qui invocábant nomen istud: et huc ad hoc venit, ut vinctos illos dúcere ad príncipes sacerdotum? Saulus autem multo magis convalescébat, et confundébat Judæos, qui habitábant Damásci, affírmans, quóniam hic est Christus.

GRADUAL Galatians 2: 8-9

Qui operátus est Petro in apostolátum, operátus est et mihi inter gentes: et cognovérunt grátiam Dei, quæ data est mihi. Grátia Dei in me vácuca non fuit: sed grátia ejus semper in me manet.

(After Septuagesima, the Alleluia is replaced by the Tract.)

LESSER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Magnus sanctus Paulus, vas electiõnis, vere digne es glorificándus, qui et méruit thronum duodécimum possidére. Allelúja.

TRACT

Tu es vas electiõnis, sancte Paule Apóstole: vere digne es glorificándus. Prædicátor veritátis et doctor gèntium in fide et veritáte. Per te omnes in gentes cognovérunt grátiam Dei. Intercede pro nobis ad Deum, qui te elégit.

GOSPEL Matthew 19: 27-29

In illo témpore Dixit Jesus ad Jesum: Ecce nos reliquimus ómnia, et secúti sumus te: quid ergo erit nobis? Jesus autem dixit illis: Amen dico vobis, quod vos, qui secúti estis me, in regeneratione, cum séderit Fílius hóminis in sede majestatis suæ, sedébitis et vos super sedes duodécim, judicántes duodécim tribus Israël. Et omnis, qui reliquerit domum, vel fratres, aut soróres, aut patrem, aut matrem, aut uxórem, aut filios, aut agros, propter nomen meum, céntuplum accípiet, et vitam ætérnam possidébit.

OFFERTORY Psalms 138: 17

Mihi autem nimis honoráti sunt amíci tui, Deus: nimis confortátus est principátus eórum.

SECRET

Apóstoli tui Pauli précibus, Dómine, plebis tuæ dona sanctífica: ut, quæ tibi tuo grata sunt instítuto, gratióra fiant patrocínio supplicántis.

Pro Sancto Petro

Ecclésiæ tuæ, quæsumus, Dómine, preces et hóstias beáti Petri Apóstoli comménde orátio: ut, quod pro illius glória celebrámus, nobis prosit ad véniam. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF THE APOSTLES

Vere digne et justum est, æquum et salutare, Te Dómine suppliciter exoráre, ut gregem Tuum pastor ætérne, non déseras: sed per beátos Apóstolos tuos continua protectiõne custódiás. Ut iisdem rectóribus gubernétur, quos óperis Tui vicários eidem cõntulísti prææ pastóles. Et ideo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominatiõnibus, cumque omni milítia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ Tuæ cánimus sine fine dicéntes:

COMMUNION Matthew 19: 28-29

Amen, dico vobis: quod vos, qui reliquistis ómnia et secúti estis me, céntuplum accípiétis, et vitam ætérnam possidébitis.

POSTCOMMUNION

Sanctificáti, Dómine, salutári mystério: quæsumus; ut nobis ejus non desit orátio, cuius nos donásti patrocínio gubernári.

Pro Sancto Petro

Lætíficet nos, Dómine, munus oblátum: ut, sicut in Apóstolo tuo Petro te mirábilem prædicámus; sic per illum tuæ sumánum indulgéntiæ largitátem. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

I know whom I have believed and I am certain that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him, against that day; being a just judge. (Ps. 138: 1-2) Lord, Thou hast proved me and known me: Thou hast known my sitting down, and my rising up. v. 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. I know whom I have believed and I am certain that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him, against that day; being a just judge.

God, Who hast taught the whole world by the preaching of blessed Paul, Thy apostle, we beseech Thee, grant us, who this day celebrate His conversion, that we may advance toward Thee by following his example.

For Saint Peter

God, Who, committing to blessed Peter, Thine apostle, the keys of the heavenly kingdom, didst bestow on him the pontifical function of binding and loosing, grant that, by the help of his intercession, we may be delivered from the bonds of our sins. Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

In those days, Saul, as yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked of him letters to Damascus, to the synagogues; that if he found any men and women of this way, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. And as he went on his journey, it came to pass that he drew nigh to Damascus: and suddenly a light from heaven shined round about him. And falling on the ground he heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me? Who said, Who art Thou, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus of Nazareth, Whom thou persecutest. It is hard for thee to kick against the goad. And he trembling and astonished, said, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? And the Lord said to him, Arise, and go into the city, and there it shall be told thee what thou must do. Now the men who went in company with him stood amazed, hearing indeed a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. But they leading him by the hand, brought him to Damascus. And he was there three days without sight; and he did neither eat nor drink. Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias and the Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold I am here, Lord. And the Lord said to him, Arise and go into the street that is called Strait, and seek in the house of Judas one named Saul of Tarsus; for behold he prayeth. (And he saw a man, named Ananias, coming in, and putting his hands upon him, that he might recover his sight.) But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints in Jerusalem: and here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that invoke Thy name. And the Lord said to him, Go thy way; for this man is to Me a vessel of election, to carry My name before the gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how great things he must suffer for My name's sake. And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house, and laying his hands upon him he said, Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus hath sent me, He that appeared to thee in the way as thou camest, that thou mayest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it were scales, and he received his sight; and rising up he was baptized. And when he had taken meat, he was strengthened. And he was with the disciples that were at Damascus for some days. And immediately he preached Jesus in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. And all that heard him were astonished, and said, Is not this he who persecuted in Jerusalem those who called upon this name: and came hither for that intent, that he might carry them bound to the chief priest? But Saul increased much more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, affirming that this is the Christ.

He who wrought in Peter to the apostleship, wrought in me, also among the gentiles, and they knew the grace of God which was given to me. The grace of God in me hath not been void; but His grace always remaineth in me.

Alleluia, alleluia. The great saint Paul, the vessel of election, is truly worthy of all glory: for he hath deserved to possess the twelfth throne. Alleluia.

Thou art a vessel of election, O holy apostle Paul: truly worthy art thou to be glorified. Preacher of the truth and teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth. V. By thee have all nations known the grace of God. Intercede for us with God, Who chose thee.

At that time, Peter said to Jesus, Behold we have left all things and have followed Thee: what therefore shall we have? And Jesus said to them, Amen I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration, when the Son of man shall sit on the seat of his majesty, you also shall sit on twelve seats judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall possess life everlasting.

But to me Thy friends, O God, are made exceedingly honorable: their principality is exceedingly strengthened.

Through the prayer of Paul, Thy apostle, sanctify, O Lord, the offerings of Thy people, that what is pleasing to Thee by more ordinance, may become more pleasing by the favor of his supplication.

For Saint Peter

We beseech Thee, O Lord, that the prayer of the blessed apostle Peter may commend the sacrifices and supplications of Thy Church, so that the celebration we hold for his glory may profit for our pardon. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, to entreat Thee humbly, O Lord, that Thou wouldst not desert Thy flock, O everlasting Shepherd, but, through Thy blessed Apostles, wouldst keep it under Thy constant protection; that it may be governed by those same rulers, whom as vicars of Thy work, Thou didst set over it to be its pastors. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, with the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:

Amen I say to you, that you who have left all things, and followed Me, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall possess life everlasting.

Sanctified by this saving mystery, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that he, under whose patronage Thou hast vouchsafed to place us, may not fail to intercede for us.

For Saint Peter

Let us pray. Let the gift we offer bring us joy, O Lord, that, as we declare Thee wonderful in Thine apostle Peter, so through him we may share the generosity of Thy forgiveness. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.