

FEBRUARY 23, ST. PETER DAMIAN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

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This saintly Bishop of Ostia, selected as advisor by seven popes in succession was a fearless and distinguished son of the Order of St. Benedict, who, in the Eleventh Century, a very turbulent period marked by anti-popes, heresies, and a lamentable relaxation of the religious spirit, was like a column of fire guiding the faithful along the narrow path of the Cross of Christ that leads in safety to heaven. He passed from this life to God on February 22, 1072, but because of the feast of the Chair of St. Peter, his yearly commemoration takes place on this day. Leo XII ordered that his Office - which was at first observed only by the Benedictines - should be extended to the Universal Church.

INTROIT Ecclesiasticus 15: 5

In médio Ecclésiæ aperuit os ejus: et implévit eum Dóminus spírítu sapiéntiæ et intelléctus: stolam glóriæ induit eum. (Ps. 91: 2) Bonum est confitéri Dómino: et psállere nómini tuo Altíssime. Glória Patri et Filio et Spírítui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. In médio Ecclésiæ aperuit os ejus: et implévit eum Dóminus spírítu sapiéntiæ et intelléctus: stolam glóriæ induit eum.

COLLECT

Concéde nos, quæsumus, omnipotens Deus: beáti Petri Confessorís tui atque Pontificís mónita et exémpla sectári; ut per terréstríum rerum contéptum æténa gáudia consequámur. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE 2 Timothy 4: 1-8

Caríssime: Testíficor coram Deo, et Jesu Christo, qui judicatúrus est vivos et mórtuos, per advéntum ipsíus, et regnum ejus: prædica verbum, insta opportúne, importúne: árgue, óbseca, increpa in omni patiéntia, et doctrína. Erit enim tempus, cum sanam doctrínam non sustinébunt, sed ad sua desidéria coacervábunt sibi magistros, pruriéntes áuribus, et a veritate quidem audítum avértent, ad fábulas autem converténtur. Tu vero vígila, in ómnibus labóra, opus fac evangelístæ, ministérium tuum imple. Sóbrius esto. Ego enim iam delíbor, et tempus resolutiónis meæ instat. Bonum certámen certávi, cursum consummávi, fidem servávi. In réliquo repósita est mihi coróna justítiae, quam reddet mihi Dóminus in illa die, justus judex: non solum autem mihi, sed et iis, qui díligunt advéntum ejus.

GRADUAL Psalms 36: 30, 31

Os justí meditábitur sapiéntiam, et lingua ejus loquétur júdicium. Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsíus: et non supplantábuntur gressus ejus.

(From Septuagesima until Easter the Lesser Alleluia is omitted and the Tract is said instead)

LESSER ALLELUIA Ecclesiasticus

45: 8

Allelúja, allelúja. Amávit eum Dóminus, et ornávit eum: stolam glóriæ induit eum. Allelúja.

TRACT Psalms 111: 1-3

Beátus vir, qui timet Dóminum: in mandátis ejus cupit nimis. Potens in terra erit semen ejus: generátio rectórum benedicétur. Glória et divítiae in domo ejus: et justítia ejus manet in sæculum sæculi.

GOSPEL Matthew 5: 13-19

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discípulis suis: Vos estis sal terræ. Quod si sal evanúerit, in quo saliétur? Ad níhilum valet ultra, nisi ut mittátur foras, et conculcétur ab homínibus. Vos estis lux mundi. Non potest civitas abscondi supra montem pósita. Neque accéndunt lucérnam, et ponunt eam sub módio, sed super candelábrum, ut líuceat ómnibus qui in domo sunt. Sic líuceat lux vestra coram homínibus: ut vídeant ópera vestra bona, et gloríficent Patrem vestrum, qui in cælis est. Nolíte putáre quóniam veni sólvete legem aut prophétas: non veni sólvete, sed adimplére. Amen quippe dico vobis, donec tránseat cælum et terra, iota unum aut unus apex non præteríbit a lege donec ómnia fiant. Qui ergo sólverit unum de mandátis istis mínimis, et docúerit sic hómines, mínimus vocábitur in regno cælórum: qui autem fecerit et docúerit, hic magnus vocábitur in regno cælórum.

OFFERTORY Psalms 91: 13

JUSTUS UT palma florébit: sicut cedrus, quæ in Líbano est, multiplicábitur.

SECRET

Sancti Petri Pontíficis tui atque Doctóris nobis, Dómine, pia non desit orátio, quæ et múnera nostra concíliet; et tuam nobis indulgéntiam semper obtíneat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Luke 12: 42

Fidélis servus et prudens, quem constitúit dóminus super familiam suam: ut det illis in témpore trítici mensúram.

POSTCOMMUNION

In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth: and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding. He clothed him with a robe of glory. (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 Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth: and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding. He clothed him with a robe of glory.

Grant us, we beseech Thee almighty God, to follow the admonitions and examples of blessed Peter, Thy Confessor and Bishop, that by contempt of the things of earth we may attain to everlasting joys. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Dearly beloved, I charge thee, before God and Jesus Christ, who shall judge the living and the dead, by His coming, and His kingdom: preach the word: be instant in season, out of season: reprove, entreat, rebuke in all patience and doctrine. For there shall be a time when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires they will heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears: and will indeed turn away their hearing from the truth, but will be turned unto fables. But be thou vigilant, labor in all things, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill thy ministry. Be sober. For I am even now ready to be sacrificed: and the time of my dissolution is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. As to the rest, there is laid up for me a crown of justice, which the Lord, the just Judge, will render to me in that day: and not only to me, but to them also that love his coming.

The mouth of the just shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak judgment. The law of his God is in his heart: and his steps shall not be supplanted.

(From Septuagesima until Easter the Lesser Alleluia is omitted and the Tract is said instead)

Alleluia, alleluia. The Lord loved him and adorned him: He clothed him with a robe of glory. Alleluia.

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord: he shall delight exceedingly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the righteous shall be blessed. Glory and wealth shall be in his house: and his justice remaineth forever and ever.

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt lose its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is good for nothing any more but to be cast out, and to be trodden on by men. You are the light of the world. A city seated on a mountain cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but upon a candlestick, that it may shine to all that are in the house. So let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets. I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For amen I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot, or one tittle shall not pass of the law, till all be fulfilled. He therefore that shall break one of these least commandments, and shall so teach men, shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. But he that shall do and teach, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

The just shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow up, like the cedar of Libanus.

May the holy prayer of St. Peter, Thy Bishop and Doctor, fail us not, O Lord: may it render our offerings acceptable, and ever obtain for us Thy 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.

The faithful and wise servant, whom his lord setteth over his family: to give them their measure of wheat in due season.