

St. Vitus was a martyr who is spoken of in the Martyrology of St. Jerome as being a native of Lucania, or of Sicily, and whose veneration was very widely diffused in Italy during the Lombard period. The Mass was originally of St. Vitus only, but later there were associated with him the martyrs Modestus and Crescentia; the former, according to the *Acta Sanctorum*, being his teacher, the latter his nurse. St. Vitus was delivered by his father to be scourged because he had been baptized; his judge was struck blind but healed by his prayers. His teacher and nurse then took him to foreign parts whence he was summoned by Diocletian to deliver his son tormented by the devil. When St. Vitus had done this he was ordered to worship false gods; upon his refusal, together with Modestus and Crescentia, he was plunged into a caldron of molten lead and flaming resin. They died in 303.

INTROIT Psalms 33: 20-21, 2

Multae tribulationes justorum, et de his omnibus liberavit eos Dominus: Dominus custodit omnia ossa eorum: unum ex his non conteretur. (Ps. 33: 2) Benedicam Dominum in omni tempore: semper laus ejus in ore meo. Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. Multae tribulationes justorum, et de his omnibus liberavit eos Dominus: Dominus custodit omnia ossa eorum: unum ex his non conteretur.

COLLECT

Da Ecclesiae tuae, quæsumus, Domine, sanctis Martyribus tuis Vito, Modesto atque Crescentia intercedentibus, superbe non sapere, sed tibi placita humilitate proficere: ut, prava despiciens, quæcumque recta sunt, libera exerceat caritate. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

LESSON Wisdom 3: 1-8

Justorum animæ in manu Dei sunt, et non tanget illos tormentum mortis. Visi sunt oculis insipientium mori: et æstimata est afflictio exitus illorum: et quod a nobis est iter exterminium: illi autem sunt in pace. Et si coram hominibus tormenta passi sunt, spes illorum immortalitate plena est. In paucis vexati, in multis bene disponuntur: quoniam Deus tentavit eos, et invenit illos dignos se. Tamquam aurum in fornace probavit illos, et quasi holocausti hostiam accepit illos, et in tempore erit respectus illorum. Fulgebunt justi, et tamquam scintillæ in arundineo discurrent. Judicabunt nationes, et dominabuntur populis, et regnabit Dominus illorum in perpetuum.

GRADUAL Exodus 15: 11, 6

Gloriosus Deus in Sanctis suis: mirabilis in maiestate, faciens prodigia. Dextera tua, Domine, glorificata est in virtute: dextera manus tua confrægit inimicos.

LESSER ALLELUIA Ecclesiasticus 44: 14

Allelûja, allelûja. Corpora Sanctorum in pace sepulta sunt, et nomina eorum vivent in generationem et generationem. Allelûja.

GOSPEL Luke 21: 9-19

In illo tempore: Dixit Jesus discipulis suis: Cum audieritis praelia et seditiões, nolite terreri: oportet primum hæc fieri, sed nondum statim finis. Tunc dicebat illis: Surget gens contra gentem, et regnum adversus regnum. Et terræmõtus magni erunt per loca, et pestilentia, et fames, terrorisque de cælo, et signa magna erunt. Sed ante hæc omnia iniicient vobis manus suas, et persecuentur tradentes ad reges et præesdicias propter nomen meum: continget autem vobis in testimonium. Põnite ergo in cordibus vestris non præmeditari, quemadmodum respondeatis. Ego enim dabo vobis os et sapientiam, cui non poterunt resistere et contradicere omnes adversarii vestri. Trademini autem a parentibus, et fratribus, et cognatis, et amicis, et morte afficient ex vobis: et eritis odio omnibus propter nomen meum: et capillus de capite vestro non peribit. In patientia vestra possidebitis animas vestras.

OFFERTORY Psalms 67: 36

Mirabilis Deus in Sanctis suis: Deus Israël, ipse dabit virtutem et fortitudinem plebi suæ: benedictus Deus.

SECRET

Sicut gloriam divinæ potentia mûnera pro Sanctis oblata testantur: sic nobis effectum, Domine, tuæ salvatiõnis impendant. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

COMMUNION Wisdom 3: 1-3

Justorum animæ in manu Dei sunt, et non tanget illos tormentum mortis. Visi sunt oculis insipientium mori: et æstimata est afflictio exitus illorum: et quod a nobis est iter exterminium: illi autem sunt in pace.

POSTCOMMUNION

Replêti, Domine, benedictione solèmni: quæsumus; ut, per intercessionem sanctorum Martyrum tuorum Viti, Modesti et Crescentia, medicina sacramenti et corporibus nostris prosit et mentibus. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

Many are the afflictions of the just, and out of all these the Lord hath delivered them: the Lord keepeth all their bones; not one of them shall be broken. (Ps. 33: 2) I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall be always in my mouth. 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. Many are the afflictions of the just, and out of all these the Lord hath delivered them: the Lord keepeth all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.

Grant to Thy church, O Lord, we beseech Thee, through the intercession of Thy holy Martyrs Vitus, Modestus, and Crescentia, not to be highminded, but to advance in that humility which is pleasing in Thy sight, that despising evil, she may practice with overflowing charity whatsoever things are right. 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 souls of the just are in the hand of God, and the torment of death shall not touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: and their departure was taken for misery: and their going away from us, for utter destruction: but they are in peace. And though in the sight of men they suffered torments, their hope is full of immortality. Afflicted in few things, in many they shall be well rewarded: because God hath tried them, and found them worthy of Himself. As gold in the furnace He hath proved them, and as a victim of a holocaust He hath received them, and in time there shall be respect had to them. The just shall shine, and shall run to and fro like sparks among the reeds. They shall judge nations, and rule over people, and their Lord shall reign for ever.

Glorious is God in His Saints, marvelous in majesty, doing wonders. Thy right hand, O Lord, is magnified in strength: Thy right hand hath slain the enemy.

Alleluia, alleluia. The bodies of the Saints are buried in peace, and their name liveth unto generation and generation. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: When you shall hear of wars and seditions, be not terrified: these things must first come to pass; but the end is not yet presently. Then he said to them: Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there shall be great earthquakes in divers places, and pestilences, and famines, and terrors from heaven; and there shall be great signs. But before all these things, they will lay their hands upon you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and into prisons, dragging you before kings and governors, for my name's sake. And it shall happen unto you for a testimony. Lay it up therefore into your hearts, not to meditate before how you shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to resist and gainsay. And you shall be betrayed by your parents and brethren, and kinsmen and friends; and some of you they will put to death. And you shall be hated by all men for my name's sake. But a hair of your head shall not perish. In your patience you shall possess your souls.

God is wonderful in His Saints: the God of Israel is He who will give power and strength to His people: blessed be God.

As the gifts, we offer in honor of thy Saints, O Lord, bear witness to the glory of thy divine power; so may they win for us the benefits of thy 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 souls of the just are in the hand of God, and the torment of death shall not touch them. In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: and their departure was taken for misery: and their going away from us, for utter destruction: but they are in peace.

We, who have been filled with Thy solemn blessing, ask, O Lord, that, through the intercession of Thy holy Martyrs Vitus, Modestus and Crescentia, this healing sacrament may benefit both our bodies and our souls. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.