

JUNE 18, ST. EPHREM OF SYRIA, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

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St. Ephrem born at Nisibis in Mesopotamia of a pagan father, was cast out of his home and lived as a hermit in the desert. He never became a priest but was deacon of the Church of Edessa. From early times, because of his opposition to the Arians, he had been famed as a teacher of the Universal Church; not only the Syrians, but the Byzantines, the Slavs, the Armenians, and the Copts had incorporated in their liturgical books the melodious compositions of the celebrated Deacon of Edessa, who was called in consequence by the Eastern Church the "Lyre of the Holy Spirit." He died at Edessa in 379. In 1918, the year in which the Centenary of St. Jerome was being kept, Pope Benedict XV compared these two heroic monks of the East. On October 5, 1920, this same Pope proclaimed St. Ephrem a Doctor of the Church. He is the only Deacon honored with the title of Doctor.

Commemoration of Sts. Mark & Marcellianus, Martyrs: Sts. Mark and Marcellianus were twin brothers, of an illustrious family in Rome. They gave their lives for Christ in 286, under the persecutions of Diocletian, after suffering cruel torture.

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 Fílio 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.

COLLECTS

Deus, qui Ecclésiám tuam beáti Ephræm Confessóris tui et Doctóris mira eruditíone et præcláris vitæ méritis illustráre voluísti: te súpplices exorámus; ut, ipso intercedénte, eam advérsum erróris et pravítatis insídias perénni tua virtúte deféndas. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of Sts. Mark & Marcellianus, Martyrs.)

Præsta, quæsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut, qui sanctórum Mártyrum tuórum Marci et Marcellíani natalítia cólimus; a cunctis malis imminéntibus eórum intercessiónibus liberémur. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus 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 oportúne, importúne: árgue, óbseca, increpa in omni patiéntia, et doctrína. Erit enim tempus, cum sanam doctrínam non sustinébunt, sed ad sua desidéria coacervábunt sibi magístros, pruriéntes áuribus, et a verítate quidem audítum avértent, ad fábulas autem converténtur. Tu vero vigila, 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 repóstita est mihi coróna justítiæ, quam reddet mihi Dóminus in illa die, justus judex: non solum autem mihi, sed et iis, qui dilígunt advéntum ejus.

GRADUAL Psalms 36: 30, 31

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

LESSER ALLELUIA Ecclesiasticus 45: 8

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

GOSPEL Matthew 5: 13-19

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discíplis suis: Vos estis sal terræ. Quod si sal evanúerit, in quo saliétur? Ad nihilum valet ultra, nisi ubi mittátur foras, et conculcétur ab homínibus. Vos estis lux mundi. Non potest civitas abscóndi 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 glorfícent Patrem vestrum, qui in cælis est. Nolíte putáre quóniam veni sólvare legem aut prophétas: non veni sólvare, 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 fecérit et docúerit, hic magnus vocábitur in regno cælórum.

OFFERTORY Psalms 91: 13

Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus, quæ in Líbano est, multiplicábitur.

SECRETS

Sancti Ephræm Confessóris 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, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of Sts. Mark & Marcellianus, Martyrs.)

Múnera tibi, Dómine, dicáta sanctífica: et, intercedéntibus sanctis Martýribus tuis Marco et Marcellíano, per éadem nos placátus inténde. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Luke 12: 42

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

POSTCOMMUNION

Ut nobis, Dómine, tua sacrificia dent salutem: beátus Ephræm, Conféssor tuus, et Doctór egrégus, quæsumus, precátor accédát. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of Sts. Mark & Marcellianus, Martyrs.)

Salutáris tui, Dómine, múnere satiáti, súpplices exorámus: ut, sicut lætámur gustu, et doctór egrégus, quæsumus, renovémur efféctu. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

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.

O God, who didst will to illumine Thy Church by the wondrous learning and glorious merits of blessed Ephrem, Thy Confessor and Doctor, do Thou, we humbly entreat Thee, by his intercession and Thy continual power, defend her against the wiles of heresy and wickedness. 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, almighty God, that we who observe the natal feast of Thy holy Martyrs, Mark and Marcellianus, may by their intercession be delivered from all the evils that threaten 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.

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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 into 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.

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

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.

O Lord, may the loving prayer of blessed Ephrem, Thy Confessor and Doctor, fail us not, both to make our gifts acceptable and ever to obtain for us 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.

Sanctify the offerings dedicated to Thee, O Lord, and, by the intercessions of blessed Mark and Marcellianus, Thy Martyrs, look favorably upon us through them. 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.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, that blessed Ephrem, Thy Confessor and illustrious Doctor, may approach to pray for us, that these Thy sacrifices may bring us 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.

Refreshed by the sacramental gift of Thy salvation, we humbly entreat Thee, O Lord, through the intercession of blessed Mark and Marcellianus, Thy Martyrs, that, enjoying its savor, we may be made new by its action. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.