

DECEMBER 11, ST. DAMASUS, POPE

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St. Damasus, by birth a Spaniard, governed the Church from 366 to 384. "The ancients," according to Alban Butler, "particularly commend his constancy in maintaining the purity of our holy faith, the innocence of his manners, his Christian humility, his compassion for the poor, his piety in adorning holy places, especially the tombs of the martyrs, and his singular learning." Much of our knowledge about the martyrs is derived from the inscriptions which he composed in their praise. He established rules for the liturgical singing of the Psalms and decreed that the *Gloria Patri* should be said at the end of each Psalm. At his command St. Jerome translated the New Testament into Latin. This Pope also confirmed the second ecumenical council, held at Constantinople.

INTROIT John 21: 15-17

Si díligis me, Simon Petre, pasce agnos meos, pasce oves meas. (Ps. 29:1) Exaltábo te, Dómine, quóniam suscepisti me, nec delectásti inimicos meos super me. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Si díligis me, Simon Petre, pasce agnos meos, pasce oves meas.

COLLECT

Gregem tuum, Pastor ætérnæ placátus întumde: et per beátum Damasum, Summum Pontíficem, perpétua protectióne custódi; quem totíus Ecclésiæ præstitísti esse pastórem. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of Feria

Éxcita, Dómine, corda nostra ad præparándas Unigéniti tui vias: ut per ejus advéntum, purificátis tibi méntibus servíre mereámur. Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE 1 Peter 5: 1-4, 10-11

Caríssimi: Senióres, qui in vobis sunt, óbsacro consénior et testis Christi passiónum, qui et ejus, quæ in futúro revelánda est, glóriæ comunicátor: páscite qui in vobis est gregem Dei, providéntes non coácte, sed spontáneee secúndum Deum, neque turpis lucrí grátia, sed voluntárie; neque ut dominántes in cleris, sed forma facti gregis ex ánimo. Et, cum appáruerit princeps pastórum, percipiétis immarcescibilem glóriæ corónam. Deus autem omnis grátiae, qui vocávit nos in ætérnam suam glóriam in Christo.Jesu, módicum passos ipse perfíciet, confirmábit solidabítque. Ipsi glória et impérium in sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

GRADUAL Psalm 106: 32, 31

Exáltent eum in ecclésia plebis: et in cáthedra seniórum laudent eum. Confíteántur Dómino misericórdiae ejus, et mirabilia ejus filiis hóminum.

LESSER ALLELUIA Matthew 16: 18

Allelúja, allelúja. Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificábo Ecclésiám meam. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 16: 13-19

In illo témpore: Venit Jesus in partes Cæsaráe Philíppi, et interrogábat discipulos suos, dicens: Quem dicunt hómines esse Fílium hóminis? At illi dixérunt: Álii Joánnem Baptistam, álii autem Eliám, álii vero Jeremíam, aut unum ex prophétis. Dicit illis Jesus: Vos autem quem me esse dicitis? Respóndens Simon Petrus, dixit: Tu es Christus, Fílius Dei vivi. Respóndens autem Jesus, dixit ei: Beátus es, Simon Bar Jona: quia caro et sanguis non revelávit tibi, sed Pater meus, qui in cælis est. Et ego dico tibi, quia tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificábo Ecclésiám meam, et portæ inferi non prævalébunt advérsus eam. Et tibi dabo claves regni cælórum. Et quodcúmque ligáveris super terram, erit ligátum et in cælis: et quodcúmque soláveris super terram, erit solútum et in cælis.

OFFERTORY Jeremiah 1: 9-10

Ecce dedi verba mea in ore tuo: ecce, constítui te super gentes et super regna, ut evéllas et déstruas, et ædífices et plantes.

SECRET

Oblátis munéribus, quæsumus, Dómine, Ecclésiám tuam benígus illúmina: ut, et gregis tui profíciat ubíque succéssus, et grati fiant nómini tuo, te gubernánte, pastóres. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of Feria

Placáre, quæsumus, Dómine, humilitátis nostræ précibus et hóstiis: et ubi nulla súppetunt suffrágia merítórum, tuis nobis succúrre præsídiis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Matthew 16: 18

Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificábo Ecclésiám meam.

POSTCOMMUNION

Refectióne sancta enutrítam gubérna, quæsumus Dómine, tuam placátus Ecclésiám: ut poténti moderatióne dirécta, et increménta libertátis accípiat et in religiónis integritáte persístat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of Feria

Repléti cibo spirituális alimóniæ, súpplices te, Dómine, deprecámur: ut hujus participatióne mystérii, dóceas nos terréna despícere et amare cælestia. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Simon Peter, if thou lovest Me, feed My lambs, feed My sheep. (Ps. 29:1) I will extol Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast upheld me: and hast not made my enemies to rejoice over me. 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. Simon Peter, if thou lovest Me, feed My lambs, feed My sheep.

Eternal Shepherd, direct gently Thy flock, and guard it with an everlasting protection, by the intercession of blessed Damasus, Sovereign Pontiff, whom Thou hast constituted Shepherd of the whole Church. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way of Thine only-begotten Son: that through His coming we may attain to serve Thee with purified minds. Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Dearly beloved, The ancients therefore that are among you, I beseech, who am myself also an ancient, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ: as also a partaker of that glory which is to be revealed in time to come: feed the flock of God which is among you, taking care of it, not by constraint, but willingly, according to God: not for filthy lucre's sake, but voluntarily: neither as lording it over the clergy, but being made a pattern of the flock from the heart. And when the prince of pastors shall appear, you shall receive a never fading crown of glory. But the God of all grace, who hath called us into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little, will Himself perfect you, and confirm you, and establish you. To him be glory and empire for ever and ever. Amen.

Let them exalt him in the church of the people: and praise him in the chair of the ancients. Let the mercies of the Lord give glory to Him: and His wonderful works to the children of men.

Alleluia, alleluia. Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus came into the quarters of Caesarea Philippi: and He asked His disciples, saying: Whom do men say that the Son of man is? But they said: Some, John the Baptist, and other some, Elisha, and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Jesus saith to them: But whom do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered and said: Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answering, said to him: Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona, because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but My Father who is in heaven. And I say to thee: That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose upon earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven.

Behold I have given My words in thy mouth: lo, I have set thee over the nations, and over kingdoms, to root up, and to pull down, and to build, and to plant.

By the offered gifts we beg Thee, O Lord, enlighten kindly Thy Church: so that Thy flock everywhere may be increasing, and the Shepherds, under Thy direction, may be pleasing to Thy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Be appeased, we beseech Thee, O Lord, by the prayers and sacrifices of our humility: and where no pleadings of merit suffice, do Thou, by Thine aid, assist us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who with Thee lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church.

O Lord, we beseech Thee, graciously govern Thy Church, which Thou hast fed with a holy meal; so that, directed by a mighty wisdom, she may progress in liberty, and persist in the integrity of faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Filled with the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly entreat Thee, O Lord, that by our partaking of this mystery, Thou wouldst teach us to despise the things of earth, and to love those of heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.