THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

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In the Epistle to the Ephesians read as the Lesson for today, St. Paul speaks very appropriately of the divine light and its fruits, which are first described in their negative aspect, when he warns his hearers against sensual pleasures, evil-speaking, and covetousness, and then in their positive aspect, goodness and justice and truth.
The Church celebrates her solemn stations in the sanctuaries of the martyrs in order to remind us that we are the heirs of their spiritual patrimony. Their blood cemented the first Christian edifice, and we, as children of the martyrs, possess their sepulchers and the places sanctified by their confession, inasmuch as we succeed them in the profession of the same faith.

INTROIT Psalm 24: 15-16

Óculi mei semper ad Dóminum, quia ipse evéllet de láqueo pedes meos: réspice in me, et miserére mei, quóniam únicus et pauper sum ego. (Ps 24:1, 2) Ad te, Dómine, levávi ánimam meam: Deus meus, in te confído, non erubéscam. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in sǽcula sæculórum. Amen. Óculi mei semper ad Dóminum, quia ipse evéllet de láqueo pedes meos: réspice in me, et miserére mei, quóniam únicus et pauper sum ego.

My eyes are ever towards the Lord: for He shall pluck my feet out of the snare: look Thou upon me, and have mercy on me: for I am alone and poor. (Psalm 24: 1, 2). To Thee, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul: in Thee, O my God, I put my trust, let me not be ashamed. 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. My eyes are ever towards the Lord: for He shall pluck my feet out of the snare: look Thou upon me, and have mercy on me: for I am alone and poor.

COLLECT

Quǽsumus, omnípotens Deus, vota humílium réspice: atque ad defensiónem nostram, déxteram tuæ majestátis exténde. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.

Humbling ourselves before Thee, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, favorably to regard the desires of our heart: and in our defense to stretch forth the right hand of Thy Majesty. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

EPISTLE Ephesians 5: 1-9

Fratres: Estóte imitatóres Dei, sicut fílii caríssimi: et ambuláte in dilectióne, sicut et Christus diléxit nos, et trádidit semetípsum pro nobis oblatiónem et hóstiam Deo in odórem suavitátis. Fornicátio autem et omnis immundítia aut avarítia nec nominétur in vobis, sicut decet sanctos: aut turpitúdo, aut stultilóquium, aut scurrílitas, quae ad rem non pértinet: sed magis gratiárum áctio. Hoc enim scitóte intelligéntes, quod omnis fornicátor, aut immúndus aut avárus, quod est idolórum sérvitus, non habet hereditátem in regno Christi et Dei. Nemo vos sedúcat inánibus verbis: propter hæc enim venit ira Dei in fílios diffidéntiæ. Nolíte ergo éffici partícipes eórum. Erátis enim aliquándo ténebræ: nunc autem lux in Dómino. Ut fílii lucis ambuláte: fructus enim lucis est in omni bonitáte, et justítia, et veritáte.

Brethren: Be ye followers of God, as most dear children: and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath delivered Himself for us, an oblation and a sacrifice to God for an odor of sweetness. But fornication, and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not so much as be named among you, as becometh saints: or obscenity, or foolish talking, or scurrility, which is to no purpose: but rather giving of thanks. For know you this, and understand, that no fornicator, or unclean or covetous person, which is a serving of idols, hath inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the anger of God upon the children of unbelief. Be ye not therefore partakers with them. For you were heretofore darkness: but now light in the Lord. Walk then as children of the light: for the fruit of the light is in all goodness, and justice, and truth.

GRADUAL Psalms 9: 20, 4

Exsúrge, Dómine, non præváleat homo: judicéntur gentes in conspéctu tuo. In converténdo inimícum meum retrórsum, infirmabúntur, et períbunt a fácie tua.

Arise, O Lord, let not man be strengthened: let the nations be judged in Thy sight. When my enemy shall be turned back, they shall be weakened and perish before Thy face.

TRACT Psalms 122: 1-3

Ad te levávi óculos meos, qui hábitas in cælis. Ecce, sicut óculi servórum in mánibus dominórum suórum. Et sicut óculi ancíllæ in mánibus dóminæ suæ: ita óculi nostri ad Dóminum, Deum nostrum, donec misereátur nostri. Miserére nobis, Dómine, miserére nobis.

To Thee have I lifted up my eyes, Who dwellest in heaven. Behold as the eyes of servants are on the hands of their masters. And as the eyes of the handmaid are on the hands of her mistress: so are our eyes unto the Lord our God, until He have mercy on us. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

GOSPEL Luke 11: 14-28

In illo témpore: Erat Jesus ejíciens dæmónium, et illud erat mutum. Et cum ejecísset dæmónium, locútus est mutus, et admirátæ sunt turbæ. Quidam autem ex eis dixérunt: In Beélzebub príncipe dæmoniórum éjicit dæmónia. Et álii tentántes, signum de cælo quærébant ab eo. Ipse autem ut vidit cogitatiónes eórum, dixit eis: Omne regnum in seípsum divísum desolábitur, et domus supra domum cadet. Si autem et sátanas in seípsum divísus est, quómodo stabit regnum ejus? quia dícitis, in Beélzebub me ejícere dæmónia. Si autem ego in Beélzebub ejício dæmónia, fílii vestri in quo ejíciunt? Ideo ipsi júdices vestri erunt. Porro si in dígito Dei ejício dæmónia: profécto pervénit in vos regnum Dei. Cum fortis armátus custódit átrium suum, in pace sunt ea, quæ póssidet. Si autem fórtior eo supervéniens vícerit eum, univérsa arma ejus áuferet, in quibus confidébat, et spólia ejus distríbuet. Qui non est mecum, contra me est: et qui non cólligit mecum, dispérgit. Cum immúndus spíritus exíerit de hómine, ámbulat per loca inaquósa, quærens réquiem: et non invéniens, dicit: Revértar in domum meam unde exívi. Et cum vénerit, ínvenit eam scopis mundátam, et ornátam. Tunc vadit, et assúmit septem álios spíritus secum nequióres se, et ingréssi hábitant ibi. Et fiunt novíssima hóminis illíus pejóra prióribus. Factum est autem, cum hæc díceret: extóllens vocem quædam múlier de turba, dixit illi: Beátus venter qui te portávit, et úbera, quæ suxísti. At ille dixit: Quinímmo beáti qui áudiunt verbum Dei, et custódiunt illud.

At that time Jesus was casting out a devil, and the same was dumb. And when He had cast out the devil, the dumb spoke, and the multitudes were in admiration at it. But some of them said: He casteth out devils by Beelzebub, the prince of devils. And others, tempting, asked of Him a sign from Heaven. But He, seeing their thoughts, said to them: Every kingdom divided against itself shall be brought to desolation, and house upon house shall fall. And if Satan also be divided against himself, how shall this kingdom stand? Because you say that through Beelzebub I cast out devils. Now if I cast out devils by Beelzebub, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore, they shall be your judges. But if I by the finger of God cast out devils: doubtless the kingdom of God is come upon you. When a strong man armed keepeth his court, those things are in peace which he possesseth. But if a stronger than he come upon him and overcome him, he will take away all his armor wherein he trusted, and will distribute his spoils. He that is not with Me is against Me: and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth. When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through places without water, seeking rest: and not finding, he saith: I will return into my house whence I came out. And when he is come, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then he goeth and taketh with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and entering in they dwell there. And the last state of that man becomes worse than the first. And it came to pass, as He spoke these things, a certain woman from the crowd, lifting up her voice, said to Him: Blessed is the womb that bore Thee, and the paps that gave Thee suck. But He said: Yea, rather, blessed are they who hear the word of God, and keep it.

OFFERTORY Psalms 18: 9-12

Justítiæ Dómini rectæ, lætificántes corda, et judícia ejus dulcióra super mel et favum: nam et servus tuus custódit ea.

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing hearts, and His judgments are sweeter than honey and the honeycomb; for Thy servant keepeth them.

SECRET

Hæc hóstia, Dómine, quǽsumus, emúndet nostra delícta: et ad sacrifícium celebrándum, subditórum tibi córpora mentésque sanctíficet. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.

May this victim, we beseech Thee, O Lord, cleanse away our sins, sanctifying Thy servants in both soul and body for the celebration of this sacrifice. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

PREFACE OF LENT

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubíque grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnípotens, ætérne Deus: Qui corporáli jejúnio vítia cómprimis, mentem élevas, virtútem largíris et prǽmia: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælorúmque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exsultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admítti júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confessióne dicéntes:

It is truly fitting and just, proper and beneficial, that we should always and everywhere, give thanks unto Thee, holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God. Who by this bodily fast, dost curb our vices, dost lift up our minds and bestow on us strength and rewards through Christ our Lord. Through whom the Angels praise Thy majesty, the Dominations adore, the Powers tremble: the heavens and the hosts of heaven, and the blessed Seraphim, together celebrate in exultation. With whom, we pray Thee, command that our voices of supplication also be admitted in confessing Thee saying:

COMMUNION Psalms 83: 4-5

Passer invénit sibi domum, et turtur nidum, ubi repónat pullos suos: altária tua, Dómine virtútum, Rex meus, et Deus meus: beáti, qui hábitant in domo tua, in sǽculum sǽculi laudábunt te.

The sparrow hath found herself a house, and the turtle a nest, where she may lay her young ones: Thy altars, O Lord of Hosts, my King, and My God: blessed are they that dwell in Thy house, they shall praise Thee for ever and ever.

POSTCOMMUNION

A cunctis nos, quǽsumus, Dómine, reátibus et perículis propitiátus absólve: quos tanti mystérii tríbuis esse partícipes. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sæculórum.

From all guilt and perils, we beseech Thee, Lord, mercifully release us, whom Thou dost grant to be partakers of such a mystery. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.