

QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

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Station at St. Peter.

Having assured ourselves by the stations at St. Lawrence and St. Paul on the two preceding Sundays of the patronage of these saints we go today to the Basilica of St. Peter and on next Sunday to that of the Holy Savior in order to commence with full confidence the holy cycle of penance. On Wednesday of this week the Church begins the Lenten fast.

In the Epistle, St. Paul attempts to raise a corner of the veil which hides the Eternal Love from the eyes of mortals. God is the primary and immediate object of the precept of charity, as He is the final end to which the creature tends. Nevertheless, the Apostle dwells rather upon His illuminative intercourse with men, in so far as they are created in His likeness and are the mystical members of Christ.

The Gospel gives us the definite announcement of the approaching Passion of Our Lord. The miracle of the blind man confirms the wavering faith of the disciples. Even the Apostles did not yet understand the mystery of the cross; how necessary, then, is it for us to meditate upon Christ crucified, lest we should fail in a matter of the highest moment, towards which the whole of our spiritual life should be directed - that is, the mystery of expiation through suffering.

INTROIT Psalms 30: 3, 4

Esto mihi in Deum protectorem, et in locum refugii, ut salvum me facias: quoniam firmamentum meum et refugium meum es tu: et propter nomen tuum dux mihi eris, et enutries me. (Ps. 30: 2) In te, Domine, speravi, non confundar in aeternum: in justitia tua libera me et eripe me. Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. Esto mihi in Deum protectorem, et in locum refugii, ut salvum me facias: quoniam firmamentum meum et refugium meum es tu: et propter nomen tuum dux mihi eris, et enutries me.

COLLECT

Preces nostras, quaesumus, Domine, clementer exaudi: atque, a peccatorum vinculis absolutos, ab omni nosa virtute custodi. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Fratres: Si linguam hominum loquar et Angelorum, caritatem autem non habeam, factus sum velut aes sonans, aut cymbalum tinniens. Et si habuero prophetiam, et noverim mysteria omnia, et omnem scientiam: et si habuero omnem fidem, ita ut montes transferam, caritatem autem non habuero, nihil sum. Et si distribuero in cibos pauperum omnes facultates meas, et si tradidero corpus meum, ita ut ardeam, caritatem autem non habuero, nihil mihi prodest. Caritas patiens est, benigna est: Caritas non aemulatur, non agit perperam, non inflatur, non est ambitiosa, non quaerit quae sua sunt, non irritatur, non cogitat malum, non gaudet super iniquitate, congaudet autem veritati: omnia suffert, omnia credit, omnia sperat, omnia sustinet. Caritas numquam excidit: sive prophetiae evacuabuntur, sive linguae cessabunt, sive scientia destruetur. Ex parte enim cognoscimus, et ex parte prophetamus. Cum autem venerit quod perfectum est, evacuabitur quod ex parte est. Cum essem parvulus, loquebar ut parvulus, sapiebam ut parvulus, cogitabam ut parvulus. Quando autem factus sum vir, evacuavi quae erant parvuli. Videmus nunc per speculum in aenigmate: tunc autem facie ad faciem. Nunc cognosco ex parte: tunc autem cognoscam, sicut et cognitus sum. Nunc autem manent, fides, spes, caritas, tria haec: major autem horum est caritas.

GRADUAL Psalms 76: 15, 16

Tu es Deus qui facis mirabilia solus: notam fecisti in gentibus virtutem tuam. Liberasti in brachio tuo populum tuum, filios Israel et Joseph.

TRACT Psalms 99: 1, 2

Jubilate Deo omnis terra: servite Domino in laetitia. Intrate in conspectu ejus in exultatione: scitote, quod Dominus ipse est Deus. Ipse fecit nos, et non ipsi nos: nos autem populus ejus, et oves pascuae ejus.

GOSPEL Luke 18: 31-43

In illo tempore: Assumpsit Jesus duodecim, et ait illis: Ecce, ascendemus Jerosolymam, et consummabuntur omnia, quae scripta sunt per prophetas de Filio hominis. Tradetur enim Gentibus, et illudetur, et flagellabitur, et conspuetur: et postquam flagellaverint, occident eum, et tertia die resurget. Et ipsi nihil horum intellexerunt, et erat verbum istud absconditum ab eis, et non intelligebant quae dicebantur. Factum est autem, cum appropinquaret Jericho, caecus quidam sedebat secus viam, mendicans. Et cum audiret turbam praetereuntem, interrogabat quid hoc esset. Dixerunt autem ei, quod Jesus Nazarenus transiret. Et clamavit, dicens: Jesu, fili David, miserere mei. Et qui praebant, increpabant eum, ut taceret. Ipse vero multo magis clamabat: Fili David, miserere mei. Stans autem Jesus, jussit illum adduci ad se. Et cum appropinquasset, interrogavit illum, dicens: Quid tibi vis faciam? At ille dixit: Domine, ut videam. Et Jesus dixit illi: Respice, fides tua te salvum fecit. Et confestim vidit, et sequebatur illum, magnificans Deum. Et omnis plebs ut vidit, dedit laudem Deo.

OFFERTORY Psalms 118: 12-13

Benedictus es, Domine, doce me justificationes tuas: in labiis meis pronuntiavi omnia judicia oris tui.

SECRET

Haec hostia, Domine, quaesumus, emundet nostra delicta: et, ad sacrificium celebrandum, subditorum tibi corpora mentesque sanctificet. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

COMMUNION Psalms 77: 29, 30

Manducaverunt, et saturati sunt nimis, et desiderium eorum attulit eis Dominus: non sunt fraudati a desiderio suo.

POSTCOMMUNION

Quaesumus, omnipotens Deus: ut, qui caelestia alimenta percipimus, per haec contra omnia adversa muniamur. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

Be Thou unto me a God, a Protector, and a place of refuge, to save me; for Thou art my strength and my refuge: and for Thy Name's sake Thou wilt lead me, and nourish me. (Ps. 30: 2) In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped, let me never be confounded: deliver me in Thy justice, and save 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. Be Thou unto me a God, a Protector, and a place of refuge, to save me; for Thou art my strength and my refuge: and for Thy Name's sake Thou wilt lead me, and nourish me.

Do Thou, we beseech Thee, O Lord mercifully hear our prayers, that we being loosed from the bonds of our sins, may by Thee be defended against all adversity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Brethren: If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. And if I should have prophecy, and should know all mysteries, and all knowledge; and if I should have all faith so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And if I should distribute all my goods to feed the poor, and if I should deliver my body to be burned and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity is patient, is kind: Charity envieth not, dealeth not perversely, is not puffed up, is not ambitious, seeketh not her own, is not provoked to anger, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth with the truth: beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never falleth away; whether prophecies shall be made void, or tongues shall cease, or knowledge shall be destroyed. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child. But when I became a man, I put away the things of a child. We see now through a glass in a dark manner; but then face to face. Now I know in part; but then I shall know even as I am known. And now there remain faith, hope, and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

Thou art God that alone doest wonders: Thou has made Thy power known among the nations. With Thy arm Thou hast delivered Thy people, the children of Israel and of Joseph.

Sing joyfully to God, all the earth: serve ye the Lord with gladness. Come in before His presence with exceeding great joy: know ye that the Lord He is God. He made us, and not we ourselves: but we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

At that time Jesus took unto Him the twelve and said to them: Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things shall be accomplished which were written by the Prophets concerning the Son of Man. For He shall be delivered to the Gentiles, and shall be mocked and scourged and spit upon: and after they have scourged Him, they will put Him to death, and the third day He shall rise again. And they understood not these things, and the word was hid from them, and they understood not the things that were said. Now it came to pass, when He drew nigh to Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the wayside begging. And when he heard the multitude passing by, he asked what this meant. And they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying: Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me. And they that went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace. But he cried out much more: Son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus standing, commanded him to be brought unto him. And when he was come near, He asked him, saying: What wilt thou that I do to thee? But he said: Lord, that I may see. And Jesus said to him: Receive thy sight, thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he saw and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy justifications: with my lips I have pronounced all the judgments of Thy mouth.

May these sacrifices, we beseech Thee, O Lord, cleanse our offenses, and sanctify the bodies and minds of Thy servants 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.

They did eat, and were filled exceedingly, and the Lord gave them their desire: they were not defrauded of that which they craved.

We beseech Thee, almighty God, that we who have received this heavenly nourishment may be strengthened by it against all adversities. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.