

JANUARY 25, CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

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(Station at St. Paul) Since the eighth century the feast of the conversion of St. Paul has been set apart by the Church to return thanks to almighty God for His act of grace in bringing the future apostle to the Faith. At one time the feast was even a holy-day of obligation. After the miracle of Christ's Resurrection, no other wonder in the history of the early Church is a stronger proof of the divine origin of Christianity than the marvelous conversion of St. Paul.

INTROIT 2 Timothy 1: 12

Scio, cui credidi, et certus sum, quia potens est depositum meum servare in illum diem, justus iudex. (Ps 138: 1-2) Domine, probasti me et cognovisti me: tu cognovisti sessionem meam et resurrectionem meam. Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. Scio, cui credidi, et certus sum, quia potens est depositum meum servare in illum diem, justus iudex.

COLLECT

Deus, qui univrsum mundum beati Pauli Apostoli praedicatione docuisti: da nobis, quaesumus; ut, qui ejus hodie Conversionem colimus, per ejus ad te exempla gradiamur.

Pro Sancto Petro

Deus, qui beato Petro Apostolo tuo, collatis clavibus regni caelestis, ligandi atque solvendi pontificium tradidisti: concede; ut, intercessionis ejus auxilio, a peccatorum nostrorum nexibus liberemur: Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

LESSON Acts 9: 1-22

In diebus illis: Saulus adhuc spirans minarum et caedis in discipulos Domini, accés sit ad principem sacerdotum, et petiit ab eo epistolas in Damascum ad synagogas: ut, si quos invenisset hujus viae viros ac mulieres, vinctos perduceret in Jerusalem. Et cum iter faceret, contigit, ut appropinquaret Damasco: et subito circumfúlsit eum lux de coelo. Et cadens in terram, audivit vocem dicentem sibi: Saule, Saule, quid me perséqueris? Qui dixit: Quis es, Domine? Et ille: Ego sum Jesus, quem tu perséqueris: durum est tibi contra stimulum calcitrare. Et tremens ac stupens, dixit: Domine, quid me vis facere? Et Dominus ad eum: Surge et ingredere civitatem, et ibi dicetur tibi, quid te oporteat facere. Viri autem illi, qui comitabantur cum eo, stabant stupefacti, audientes quidem vocem, neminem autem videntes. Surrexit autem Saulus de terra, apertisque oculis nihil videbat. Ad manus autem illum trahentes, introduxerunt Damascum. Et erat ibi tribus diebus non videns, et non manducavit neque bibit. Erat autem quidam discipulus Damasci, nomine Ananias: et dixit ad illum in visu Dominus: Anania. At ille ait: Ecce ego, Domine. Et Dominus ad eum: Surge et vade in vicum, qui vocatur Rectus: et quaere in domo Judae Saulum nomine Tarsensem: ecce enim orat. Et vidit virum, Ananiam nomine, introentem et imponentem sibi manus, ut visum recipiat. Respondit autem Ananias: Domine, audivi a multis de viro hoc, quanta mala fecerit sanctis tuis in Jerusalem: et hic habet potestatem a principibus sacerdotum alligandi omnes, qui invocant nomen tuum. Dixit autem ad eum Dominus: Vade, quoniam vas electionis est mihi iste, ut portet nomen meum coram gentibus et regibus et filiis Israel. Ego enim ostendam illi, quanta oporteat eum pro nomine meo pati. Et abiit Ananias et introvit in domum: et impoñens ei manus, dixit: Saule frater, Dominus misit me Jesus, qui apparuit tibi in via, qua veniebas, ut videas et implearis Spiritu Sancto. Ei confestim ceciderunt ab oculis ejus tamquam squamae, et visum recipit: et surgens baptizatus est. Et cum accepisset cibum, confortatus est. Fuit autem cum discipulis, qui erant Damasci, per dies aliquot. Et continuo in synagoga praedicabat Jesus, quoniam hic est Filius Dei. Stupebant autem omnes, qui audiebant, et dicebant: Nonne hic est, qui expugnabat in Jerusalem eos, qui invocabant nomen istud: et huc ad hoc venit, ut vinctos illos ducere ad principes sacerdotum? Saulus autem multo magis convalescebat, et confundebat Judaeos, qui habitabant Damasci, affirmans, quoniam hic est Christus.

GRADUAL Galatians 2: 8-9

Qui operatus est Petro in apostolatum, operatus est et mihi inter gentes: et cognoverunt gratiam Dei, quae data est mihi. Gratia Dei in me vacua non fuit: sed gratia ejus semper in me manet.

(After Septuagesima, the Alleluia is replaced by the Tract.)

LESSER ALLELUIA

Alleluja, alleluja. Magnus sanctus Paulus, vas electionis, vere digne es glorificandus, qui et meruit thronum duodecimum possidere. Alleluja.

TRACT

Tu es vas electionis, sancte Paule Apostole: vere digne es glorificandus. Praedicator veritatis et doctor gentium in fide et veritate. Per te omnes in gentes cognoverunt gratiam Dei. Intercede pro nobis ad Deum, qui te elegit.

GOSPEL Matthew 19: 27-29

In illo tempore Dixit Jesus ad Jesum: Ecce nos reliquimus omnia, et secuti sumus te: quid ergo erit nobis? Jesus autem dixit illis: Amen dico vobis, quod vos, qui secuti estis me, in regeneratione, cum sederit Filius hominis in sede majestatis suae, sedebitis et vos super sedes duodecim, iudicantes duodecim tribus Israel. Et omnis, qui reliquerit domum, vel fratres, aut sorores, aut patrem, aut matrem, aut uxorem, aut filios, aut agros, propter nomen meum, centuplum accipiet, et vitam aeternam possidebit.

OFFERTORY Psalms 138: 17

Mihi autem nimis honorati sunt amici tui, Deus: nimis confortatus est principatus eorum.

SECRET

Apostoli tui Pauli precibus, Domine, plebis tuae dona sanctifica: ut, quae tibi tuo grata sunt instituta, gratiora fiant patrocinio supplicantis.

Pro Sancto Petro

Ecclésiæ tuæ, quaesumus, Domine, preces et hostias beati Petri Apostoli commendat oratio: ut, quod pro illius gloria celebramus, nobis prosit ad veniam. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

PREFACE OF THE APOSTLES

Vere digne et justum est, æquum et salutare, Te Domine suppliciter exorare, ut gregem Tuum pastor aeternae, non deseras: sed per beatos Apostolos tuos continua protectione custodias. Ut iisdem rectoribus gubernetur, quos operis Tui vicarios eidem Angelis praees pastores. Et ideo cum Angelis et Archangelis, cum Thronis et Dominationibus, cumque omni militia caelestis exercitus, hymnum gloriæ Tuæ canimus sine fine dicentes:

COMMUNION Matthew 19: 28-29

Amen, dico vobis: quod vos, qui reliquistis omnia et secuti estis me, centuplum accipietis, et vitam aeternam possidebitis.

POSTCOMMUNION

Sanctificati, Domine, salutari mysterio: quaesumus; ut nobis ejus non desit oratio, cuius nos donasti patrocinio gubernari.

Pro Sancto Petro

Lætificet nos, Domine, munus oblatum: ut, sicut in Apostolo tuo Petro te mirabilem praedicamus; sic per illum tuæ sumamus indulgentiæ largitatem. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

I know whom I have believed and I am certain that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him, against that day; being a just judge. (Ps. 138: 1-2) Lord, Thou hast proved me and known me: Thou hast known my sitting down, and my rising up. v. 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. I know whom I have believed and I am certain that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him, against that day; being a just judge.

God, Who hast taught the whole world by the preaching of blessed Paul, Thy apostle, we beseech Thee, grant us, who this day celebrate His conversion, that we may advance toward Thee by following his example.

For Saint Peter

God, Who, committing to blessed Peter, Thine apostle, the keys of the heavenly kingdom, didst bestow on him the pontifical function of binding and loosing, grant that, by the help of his intercession, we may be delivered from the bonds of our sins. Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

In those days, Saul, as yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked of him letters to Damascus, to the synagogues; that if he found any men and women of this way, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. And as he went on his journey, it came to pass that he drew nigh to Damascus: and suddenly a light from heaven shined round about him. And falling on the ground he heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me? Who said, Who art Thou, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus of Nazareth, Whom thou persecutest. It is hard for thee to kick against the goad. And he trembling and astonished, said, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? And the Lord said to him, Arise, and go into the city, and there it shall be told thee what thou must do. Now the men who went in company with him stood amazed, hearing indeed a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. But they leading him by the hand, brought him to Damascus. And he was there three days without sight; and he did neither eat nor drink. Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias and the Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold I am here, Lord. And the Lord said to him, Arise and go into the street that is called Strait, and seek in the house of Judas one named Saul of Tarsus; for behold he prayeth. (And he saw a man, named Ananias, coming in, and putting his hands upon him, that he might recover his sight.) But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints in Jerusalem: and here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that invoke Thy name. And the Lord said to him, Go thy way; for this man is to Me a vessel of election, to carry My name before the gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how great things he must suffer for My name's sake. And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house, and laying his hands upon him he said, Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus hath sent me, He that appeared to thee in the way as thou camest, that thou mayest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it were scales, and he received his sight; and rising up he was baptized. And when he had taken meat, he was strengthened. And he was with the disciples that were at Damascus for some days. And immediately he preached Jesus in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. And all that heard him were astonished, and said, Is not this he who persecuted in Jerusalem those who called upon this name: and came hither for that intent, that he might carry them bound to the chief priest? But Saul increased much more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, affirming that this is the Christ.

He who wrought in Peter to the apostleship, wrought in me, also among the gentiles, and they knew the grace of God which was given to me. The grace of God in me hath not been void; but His grace always remaineth in me.

Alleluia, alleluia. The great saint Paul, the vessel of election, is truly worthy of all glory: for he hath deserved to possess the twelfth throne. Alleluia.

Thou art a vessel of election, O holy apostle Paul: truly worthy art thou to be glorified. Preacher of the truth and teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth. V. By thee have all nations known the grace of God. Intercede for us with God, Who chose thee.

At that time, Peter said to Jesus, Behold we have left all things and have followed Thee: what therefore shall we have? And Jesus said to them, Amen I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration, when the Son of man shall sit on the seat of his majesty, you also shall sit on twelve seats judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall possess life everlasting.

But to me Thy friends, O God, are made exceedingly honorable: their principality is exceedingly strengthened.

Through the prayer of Paul, Thy apostle, sanctify, O Lord, the offerings of Thy people, that what is pleasing to Thee by more ordinance, may become more pleasing by the favor of his supplication.

For Saint Peter

We beseech Thee, O Lord, that the prayer of the blessed apostle Peter may commend the sacrifices and supplications of Thy Church, so that the celebration we hold for his glory may profit for our pardon. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, to entreat Thee humbly, O Lord, that Thou wouldst not desert Thy flock, O everlasting Shepherd, but, through Thy blessed Apostles, wouldst keep it under Thy constant protection; that it may be governed by those same rulers, whom as vicars of Thy work, Thou didst set over it to be its pastors. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, with the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:

Amen I say to you, that you who have left all things, and followed Me, shall receive a hundredfold, and shall possess life everlasting.

Sanctified by this saving mystery, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that he, under whose patronage Thou hast vouchsafed to place us, may not fail to intercede for us.

For Saint Peter

Let us pray. Let the gift we offer bring us joy, O Lord, that, as we declare Thee wonderful in Thine apostle Peter, so through him we may share the generosity of 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.