

St. Blaise, bishop of Sebaste in Armenia, suffered among other torments that of faying with a wool-combers' brush under Licinius, and was finally beheaded (317). In the Eleventh Century there were thirty-five churches dedicated to him in Rome. He saved the life of a child who was dying choked by a bone. In consequence he is invoked especially for healing all diseases of the throat. His throat is preserved as a relic in the Vatican. The church blesses two candles and prays for all those whose necks the candles shall touch that they be delivered from diseases of the throat and every other evil. He is one of the fourteen "auxiliary" saints who are venerated for their help in various physical afflictions.

INTROIT Daniel 3: 84, 87

Sacerdotes Dei, benedicite Dominum: sancti et humiles corde, laudate Deum. (Daniel 3: 57) Benedicite, omnia opera Domini, Domino: laudate et superexaltate eum in saecula. Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Sacerdotes Dei, benedicite Dominum: sancti et humiles corde, laudate Deum.

COLLECT

Deus, qui nos beati Blaise Martyris tui atque Pontificis annua sollemnitate laetificas: concede propitius; ut, cujus natalitia colimus, de ejusdem etiam protectione gaudeamus. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

EPISTLE 2 Cor. 1: 3-7

Fratres: Benedictus Deus et Pater Domini nostri Jesu Christi, Pater misericordiarum, et Deus totius consolationis, qui consolatur nos in omni tribulatione nostra: ut possimus et ipsi consolari eos qui in omni pressura sunt, per exhortationem, qua exhortamur et ipsi a Deo. Quoniam sicut abundant passionibus Christi in nobis: ita et per Christum abundat consolatio nostra. Sive autem tribulamur pro vestra exhortatione et salute, sive consolamur pro vestra consolatione, sive exhortamur pro vestra exhortatione et salute, quae operatur tolerantiam earumdem passionum, quas et nos patimur: ut spes nostra firma sit pro vobis : scientes quod sicut socii passionum estis, sic eritis et consolationis: in Christo Jesu Domino nostro.

GRADUAL Psalms 8: 6, 7

Gloria et honore coronasti eum. Et constituisti eum super opera manuum tuarum, Domine.

(From Septuagesima until Easter, the Lesser Alleluia is replaced by the Tract.)

LESSER ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia. Hic est sacerdos, quem coronavit Dominus. Alleluia.

TRACT Psalms 111: 1-3

Beatus vir, qui timet Dominum: in mandatis ejus cupit nimis. Potens in terra erit semen ejus: generatio rectorum benedicetur, Gloria et divitiarum in domo ejus: et justitia ejus manet in saeculum saeculi.

GOSPEL Matthew 16: 24-27

In illo tempore: Dixit Jesus discipulis suis: Si quis vult post me venire, abneget semetipsum, et tollat crucem suam, et sequatur me. Qui enim voluerit animam suam salvam facere, perdet eam: qui autem periderit animam suam propter me, inveniet eam. Quid enim prodest homini, si mundum universum lucraverit, animam vero suam detrimentum patiatur? Aut quam dabit homo commutationem pro anima sua? Filius enim hominis venturus est in gloria Patris sui cum angelis suis: et tunc reddet unicuique secundum opera ejus.

OFFERTORY Psalms 88: 21-22

Inveni David servum meum. oleo sancto meo unxi eum: manus enim mea auxiliabitur ei, et brachium meum confortabit eum.

SECRET

Munera tibi, Domine, dicata sanctifica: et, intercedente beato Blaise Martyre tuo atque Pontifice, per eadem nos placatus intende. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

COMMUNION Psalms 20: 4

Posuisti, Domine, in capite ejus coronam de lapide pretioso.

POSTCOMMUNION

Haec nos communitio, Domine, purget a crimine: et intercedente beato Blaise, Martyre tuo et Pontifice, caelestis remedii faciat esse consortes. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

O ye priests of the Lord, bless the Lord: O ye holy and humble of heart, praise God. (Daniel 3: 57) All ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord: praise and exalt Him above all for ever. 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. O ye priests of the Lord, bless the Lord: O ye holy and humble of heart, praise God.

O God, Who dost gladden us by the annual feast of blessed Blaise, Thy Martyr and Bishop: mercifully grant that we who celebrate his heavenly birthday, may also rejoice in his protection. 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: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. Who comforteth us in all our tribulation; that we also may be able to comfort them who are in all distress, by the exhortation wherewith we also are exhorted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us: so also by Christ doth our comfort abound. Now whether we be in tribulation, it is for your exhortation and salvation: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation: or whether we be exhorted, it is for your exhortation and salvation, which worketh the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer. That our hope for you may be steadfast: knowing that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so shall you be also of the consolation, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thou hast crowned him with glory and honor. And hast set over the works of Thy hands, O Lord.

From Septuagesima until Easter, the Lesser Alleluia is replaced by the Tract.)

Alleluia, alleluia. This is the priest whom the Lord hath crowned. Alleluia.

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; he delighteth exceedingly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth: the generation of the righteous shall be blessed. Glory and wealth shall be in his house, and his justice remaineth for ever and ever.

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For he that will save his life, shall lose it: and he that shall lose his life for my sake, shall find it. For what doth it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his own soul? Or what exchange shall a man give for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels: and then will he render to every man according to his works.

I have found David My servant, with My holy oil I have anointed him: for My hand shall help him, and My arm shall strengthen him.

Sanctify, O Lord, the gifts dedicated to Thee, and through them, by the intercession of blessed Blaise, Thy Martyr and Bishop, graciously regard 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.

Thou hast set on his head, O Lord, a crown of precious stones.

May this Communion, O Lord, cleanse us from guilt: and through the intercession of blessed Blaise, Thy Martyr and Bishop, may it make us sharers in the heavenly healing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.