

MARCH 7, ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

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At the age of 5, St. Thomas was committed to the care of the Benedictine monks at Monte Cassino; he died at the Abbey of Fossanova in 1274. He is called the "Angel of the Schools."

The special glory of St. Thomas, his most salient virtue, is the profound love which he shows for the sacred tradition of the Church. He appears almost to be one with it, and has therefore become its most authoritative interpreter. It would, indeed, not be easy to find in the annals of Christianity a more inspired mind, reflecting better the perfections of the angelic spirits than that of the great Dominican, who, building upon the foundations laid by the ancient Fathers of the Church, gave with marvelous accuracy a definite form to our knowledge of God. Leo XIII declared him the patron of all Catholic schools.

INTROIT Ecclesiasticus 15: 5

In médio Ecclésiæ aperuit os ejus: et implévit eum Dóminus spírítu sapiéntiæ et intelléctus: stolam glóriæ induit eum. (Ps. 91: 2) Bonum est confitéri Dómino: et psállere nómini tuo, Altíssime. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spírítui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. In médio Ecclésiæ aperuit os ejus: et implévit eum Dóminus spírítu sapiéntiæ et intelléctus: stolam glóriæ induit eum.

COLLECT

Deus, qui Ecclésiám tuam beáti Thomæ Confessóris tui mira eruditíone claríficas, et sancta operatíone fecúndas: da nobis, quæsumus; et quæ dócuít, intelléctu conspícere, et quæ egít, imitatíone complére. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of Lenten Feria

Convérte nos, Deus, salutáris noster: et, ut nobis jejúnium quadragesimále proficiat, mentes nostras cæléstibus instrue disciplinis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Wisdom 7: 7-14

Optávi, et datus est mihi sensus: et invocávi, et venit in me spírítus sapiéntiæ: et præpósui illam regnis et sédibus, et divítias nihil esse duxi in comparatíone illíus: nec comparávi illi lápidem pretiósium: quóniam omne aurum in comparatíone illíus arena est exigua, et tamquam lutum æstimábitur argéntum in conspéctu illíus. Super salutem et spéciem diléxi illam, et propósui pro luce habére illam: quóniam inextinguibile est lumen illíus. Venérunt autem mihi ómnia bona páriter cum illa, et innumerábilis honéstas per manus illíus, et lætátus sum in ómnibus: quóniam antecédébat me ista sapiéntia, et ignorábam, quóniam horum ómnium mater est. Quam sine fictíone dídici et sine invidia commúnico, et honestátem illíus non abscondo. Infínitus enim thesáurus est homínibus: quo qui usi sunt, partícipes facti sunt amicitíæ Dei, propter disciplínæ dona commendáti.

GRADUAL Psalms 36: 30, 31

Os justí meditábitur sapiéntiam, et lingua ejus loquétur júdicium. Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsíus: et non supplantábuntur gressus ejus.

(From Septuagesima until Easter the Lesser Alleluia is omitted and the Tract is said instead)

LESSER ALLELUIA

Ecclesiasticus 45: 8

Allelúja, allelúja. Amávit eum Dóminus, et ornávit eum: stolam glóriæ induit eum. Allelúja.

TRACT Psalms 111: 1-3

Beátus vir, qui timet Dóminum: in mandátis ejus cupit nimis. Potens in terra erit semen ejus: generatío rectórum benedicétur. Glória et divítiae in domo ejus: et justítia ejus manet in sæculum sæculi.

GOSPEL Matthew 5: 13-19

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discíplulis suis: Vos estis sal terræ. Quod si sal evanúerit, in quo saliétur? Ad nihilum valet ultra, nisi ut mittátur foras, et conculcétur ab homínibus. Vos estis lux mundi. Non potest civitas abscondi supra montem pósita. Neque accéndunt lucérnam, et ponunt eam sub módio, sed super candelábrum, ut líuceat ómnibus qui in domo sunt. Sic líuceat lux vestra coram homínibus: ut gloríficent Patrem vestrum, et in cælis est. Nolíte putáre, quóniam veni sólvete legem aut prophétas: non veni sólvete, sed adimplére. Amen quippe dico vobis, donec tránseat cælum et terra, ióta unum aut unus apex non præteríbit a lege, donec ómnia fiant. Qui ergo sólverit unum de mandátis istis mínimis, et docúerit sic hómines, mínimus vocábitur in regno cælórum: qui autem fecérit et docúerit, hic magnus vocábitur in regno cælórum.

OFFERTORY Psalms 91: 13

Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus, quæ in Líbano est, multiplicábitur.

SECRET

Sancti Thomæ Confessóris tui atque Doctóris nobis, Dómine, pia non desit orátio: quæ et múnera nostra concíliet; et tuam nobis indulgéntiam semper obtíneat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of Lenten Feria

Múnera tibi, Dómine, obláta sanctífica: nosque a peccatórum nostrórum máculis emúndet. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF LENT

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubíque grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus: Qui corporáli jejúnio vítia cóprimis, mentem élevas, virtútem largírís et præmia: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dominatíones, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælorúmque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exsultatíone concélebrant. Cum quibus et noscra voces ut admítte júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confessíone dicéntes:

COMMUNION Luke 12: 42

Fidélis servus et prudens, quem constítuit dóminus in super frátium mensúram.

POSTCOMMUNION

Ut nobis, Dómine, tua sacrificia dent salutem: beátus Thomás Conféssor tuus, et Doctór egrégus, quæsumus, precátor decédat. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of Lenten Feria

Salutáris tui, Dómine, múnere satiáti, súpplices exorámus: ut, cujus lætámur gustu, renovémur efféctu. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth: and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding. He clothed him with a robe of glory.

(Ps. 91: 2) It is good to give praise to the Lord: and to sing to Thy Name, O Most High. 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. In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth: and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding. He clothed him with a robe of glory.

O God, Who dost enlighten Thy Church with the wondrous learning of blessed Thomas, Thy Confessor, and dost make it fruitful with his holy labors, grant us, we beseech Thee, both to understand what he taught and to imitate what he practiced. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

O God, our Savior, direct our minds by Thine heavenly teaching, so that the Lenten fast may profit 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.

I wished, and understanding was given me; and I called, and the spirit of wisdom came upon me; and I preferred her before kingdoms and thrones, and esteemed riches nothing in comparison of her. Neither did I compare unto her any precious stone, for all gold in comparison of her is as a little sand, and silver in respect to her shall be counted as clay. I loved her above health and beauty, and chose to have her instead of light, for her light can not be put out. Now all good things came to me together with her, and innumerable riches through her hands. And I rejoiced in them all; for this wisdom went before me, and I knew not that she was the mother of them all: which I have learned without guile, and communicate without envy, and her riches I hide not; for she is an infinite treasure to men, which they that use become the friends of God, being commended for the gifts of discipline.

The mouth of the just shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak judgment. The law of his God is in his heart: and his steps shall not be supplanted.

(From Septuagesima until Easter the Lesser Alleluia is omitted and the Tract is said instead)

Alleluia, alleluia. The Lord loved him and adorned him: He clothed him with a robe of glory. Alleluia.

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

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt lose its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is good for nothing any more but to be cast out, and to be trodden on by men. You are the light of the world. A city seated on a mountain cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but upon a candlestick, that it may shine to all that are in the house. So let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets. I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For amen I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall not pass of the law, till all be fulfilled. He therefore that shall break one of these least commandments, and shall so teach men, shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. But he that shall do and teach, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

The just shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow up, like the cedar of Libanus.

May the holy prayer of St. Thomas, Thy Confessor and Doctor, fail us not, O Lord: may it render our offerings acceptable, and ever obtain for us Thy 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.

Sanctify the gifts offered unto Thee, O Lord, and cleanse us from the stains of our sins. 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 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:

The faithful and wise servant, whom his lord setteth over his family: to give them their measure of wheat in due season.

In order that Thy sacrifices may render salvation to us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that blessed Thomas, Thy Confessor and illustrious Doctor, may act as intercessor. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Refreshed by the sacramental gift of Thy salvation, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, that, enjoying its savor, we may be made new by its action. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.