

MARCH 10, FORTY HOLY MARTYRS

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The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste suffered in Armenia under Emperor Licinius, A.D. 320. Refusing to sacrifice to idols they were stripped of their clothes and exposed on a frozen pond. They asked God that "the forty who had entered the lists might be forty to win the crown, forty being the number consecrated by the fasts of Jesus, Moses and Elias."

God can raise up sons to Abraham from the stone; if we do not correspond to his grace the loss will be ours alone, since God will perform by means of another that which He would otherwise have deigned to accomplish through our instrumentality.

This is what happened in the case of the Forty Martyrs of Sebaste. The angels had prepared forty crowns in heaven; one of the confessors of the Faith broke down under the torments, and apostatized, but his place was immediately taken by one of the executioners, who thereby merited the fortieth crown. They were much praised by St. Basil and St. Gregory of Nyssa, and were greatly venerated even in the West.

INTROIT Psalms 33: 18

Clamavérunt justí, et Dóminus exaudivít eos: et ex ómnibus tribulatióibus eórum liberávit eos. (Ps. 33: 2) Benedícam Dóminum in omni témpore: semper laus ejus in ore meo. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Clamavérunt justí, et Dóminus exaudivít eos: et ex ómnibus tribulatióibus eórum liberávit eos.

COLLECT

Præsta, quæsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut, qui gloriósos Mártyres fortes in sua confessióe cognóvimus, pios apud te in nostra intercessióe sentiámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE Hebrews 11: 33-39

Fratres: Sancti per fidem vicérunt regna, operáti sunt justítiam, adépti sunt repromissióes, obturavérunt ora leónum, exstinxérunt ímpetum ignis, effugerunt aciem gládii, convaluérunt de infirmitate, fortes facti sunt in bello, castra vertérunt exterórum: acceperunt mulieres de resurrectióe mórtuos suos: álii autem disténti sunt, non suscipiéntes redemptiõem, ut meliorem invenírent resurrectiõem: alii vero ludíbria et vébera expéti, ínsuper et víncula et cárceres: lapidáti sunt, secti sunt, tentáti sunt, in occisióe gládii mórtui sunt: circuiérunt in melótis, in péllibus caprínis, egéntes, angustiáti, afflicti: quibus dignus non erat mundus: in solitudínibus errantes, in móntibus et spelúncis et in cavérnis terræ. Et hi omnes testimónio fidei probáti, invénti sunt in Christo Jesu, Dómino nostro.

GRADUAL Psalms 132: 1-2

Ecce, quam bonum et quam jucundum, habitáre fratres in unum! Sicut unguéntum in cápite, quod descendit in barbam, barbam Aaron.

TRACT Psalms 125: 5-6

Qui séminant in lácrimis, in gáudio metent. Eúntes ibant et fiébant, mitténtes semina sua. Venientes autem vénient cum exultatióe, portántes manipulos suos.

GOSPEL Luke 6: 17-23

In illo témpore: Descéndens Jesus de monte, stetit in loco campéstri, et turba discipulórum ejus, et multitúdo copiósa plebis ab omni Judæa, et Jerúsalem, et marítima, et Tyri, et Sidónis, qui vénerant, ut audírent eum et sanaréntur a languóribus suis. Et, qui vexabántur a spirítibus immúndis, curabántur. Et omnis turba quærébat eum tângere: quia virtus de illo exíbat, et sanábat omnes. Et ipse, elevátis óculis in discipulos suos, dicébat: Beáti, páuperes: quia vestrum est regnum Dei. Beáti, qui nunc esurítis: quia saturabímmini. Beáti, qui nunc fletis: quia ridébitis. Beáti éritis, cum vos óderint hómines, et cum separáverint vos et exprobráverint, et ejécerint nomen vestrum tamquam malum, propter Fílium hóminis. Gaudéte in illa die et exsultáte: ecce enim, merces vestra multa est in cælo.

OFFERTORY Psalms 31: 11

Lætámini in Dómino et exsultáte, justí: et gloriámini, omnes recti corde.

SECRET

Preces, Dómine, tuórum réspice oblationésque fidélium: ut et tibi gratæ sint pro tuórum festivitáte Sanctórum, et nobis cónferant tuæ propitiatióis auxiliúm. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spíritus 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 omnípotens, ætérne Deus: Qui corporáli jejúnio vítia cóprimis, mentem élevas, virtútem largírís et præmia: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dominatióes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælórumque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exsultatióe concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admítiti júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confessióe dicéntes:

COMMUNION Matthew 12: 50

Quicumque fécerit voluntátem Patris mei, qui in cælis est: ipse meus frater et soror et mater est, dicit Dóminus.

POSTCOMMUNION

Sanctórum tuórum, Dómine, intercessióe placátus: præsta, quæsumus; ut, quæ temporáli celebrámus actióe, perpétua salvatióne capiámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

The just cried, and the Lord heard them; and delivered them out of all their troubles. (Ps. 33: 2) I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall be ever in my mouth. 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.

The just cried, and the Lord heard them; and delivered them out of all their troubles.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O almighty God, that we, who acknowledge the boldness of thy glorious martyrs in confessing Thy name, may experience likewise their loving intercession for 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.

Brethren, the saints through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, recovered strength from weakness, became valiant in battle, put to flight the armies of foreigners: women received their dead raised to life again: but others were racked, not accepting deliverance, that they ight find a better resurrection; and others had trial of mockeries and stripes, moreover also of bands and prisons: they were stoned, they were cut asunder, they were tempted, they wandered about in sheep-skins, and in goat-skins, being in want, distressed, afflicted of whom the world was not worthy: wandering in deserts, in mountains, and in dens, and in caves of the earth. And all these were found approved by the testimony of faith, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment on the head, that ran down upon the beard, the beard of Aaron.

They that sow in tears, shall reap in joy. Going they went and wept, casting their seeds. But coming they shall come with joyfulness carrying their sheaves.

At that time, Jesus coming down from the mountain, stood in a plain place, and the company of His disciples, and a very great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and the sea-coast both of Tyre and Sidon, who were come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases. And they that were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the multitude sought to touch Him : for virtue went out from Him and healed all. And He, lifting up His eyes on His disciples, said : Blessed are ye poor : for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are ye that hunger now: for you shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now : for you shall laugh. Blessed shall you be when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you and shall reproach you and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Be glad in that day and rejoice: for behold, your reward is great in Heaven.

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice ye just; and glory all ye right of heart.

Look down, O Lord, upon the prayers and oblations of Thy faithful; that they may be agreeable to Thee on the feast of Thy saints, and obtain for us the help of Thy propitiation. 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:

Whosoever shall do the will of My Father who is in heaven, the same is My brother and sister, and mother, saith the Lord.

Appeased, O Lord by the intercession of Thy saints, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may obtain by the celebration of this temporal act our eternal salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.