

MARCH 12, ST. GREGORY THE GREAT, POPE

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St. Gregory I, called the Great, was one of the most illustrious of the Popes. For fourteen years his pontificate was a model of ecclesiastical rule. He healed schisms; revived discipline; aided in the conversion of the Spanish and French Goths, and kindled anew in Britain the light of the Faith. He set in order the prayers and chant of the Church; and the Church reckons him one of her four great Doctors.

He died March 12, 604. To this day the pope, when solemnizing High Mass at St. Peter's, is vested at the altar which covers the tomb of St. Gregory.

INTROIT John 21: 15-17

Si diligis me, Simon Petre, pasce agnos meos, pasce oves meas. (Ps. 29: 1) Exaltábo te, Dómine, quóniam suscepisti me, nec delectásti inimicos meos super me. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Si diligis Me, Simon Petre, pasce agnos meos, pasce oves meas.

COLLECT

Deus, qui ánimæ fámuli tui Gregórii ætérnæ beatitúdinis præmia contulísti: concéde propítius; ut, qui peccatórum nostrórum póndere prémimur, ejus apud te précibus sublevémur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Lenten Feria: Wednesday, 1st week

Preces nostras, quæsumus, Dómine, cleménter exáudi: et contra cuncta nobis adversántia, déxeram tuæ majestátis exténde. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE 1 Peter 5: 1-4, 10-11

Caríssimi: Senióres, qui in vobis sunt, óbsecro consénior et testis Christi passiónum, qui et ejus, quæ in futúro revelánda est, glóriæ comunicátor: páscite qui in vobis est gregem Dei, providéntes non coácte, sed spontáneè secúndum Deum, neque turpis lucrí grátia, sed voluntárie; neque ut dominántes in cleris, sed forma facti gregis ex ánimo. Et, cum apparúerit princeps pastórum, percipiétis immarcescibilem glóriæ corónam. Deus autem omnis grátia, qui vocávit nos in ætérnam suam glóriam in Christo Iesu, módicum passus ipse perficiet, confirmábit solidabítque. Ipsi glória et impérium in sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

GRADUAL Psalms 106: 32, 31

Exáltent eum in ecclésia plebis: et in cáthedra seniórum laudent eum. Confíteántur Dómino misericórdia e ejus, et mirabilia ejus filiis hóminum.

TRACT Psalms 39: 10-11

Annuntiávi justítiám tuam in ecclésia magna; ecce lábia mea non prohibébo: Dómine, tu scisti. Justítiám tuam non abscondi in corde: veritátem tuam et salutáre tuum dixi. Non abscondi misericórdiam tuam, et veritátem tuam a concílio multo.

GOSPEL Matthew 16: 13-19

In illo témpore: Venit Jesus in partes Cæsaráe Philíppi, et interrogábat discipulos suos, dicens: Quem dicunt hómines esse Fílium hóminis? At illi dixérunt: Álii Joánnem Baptistam, álii autem Elíam, álii vero Jeremíam aut unum ex prophétis. Dicit illis Jesus: Vos autem quem me esse dicitis? Respóndens Simon Petrus, dixit: Tu es Christus, Fílius Dei vivi. Respóndens autem Jesus, dixit ei: Beátus es, Simon Bar Jona: quia caro et sanguis non revelávit tibi, sed Pater meus, qui in cælis est. Et ego dico tibi, quia tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificábo Ecclésiám meam, et portæ inferi non prævalébunt advérsus eam. Et tibi dabo claves regni cælórum. Et quodcúmque ligáveris super terram, erit ligátus et in cælis: et quodcúmque sólveris super terram, erit solútum et in cælis.

OFFERTORY Jeremiah 1: 9-10

Ecce, dedi verba mea in ore tuo: ecce, constitúi te super gentes et super regna, ut evéllas et déstruas, et ædífices et plantes.

SECRET

Annue nobis, quæsumus, Dómine: ut intercessióne beáti Gregórii hæc nobis prosit oblátio, quam immolándo totíus mundi tribuísti relaxári delícta. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Lenten Feria: Wednesday, 1st week

Hóstias tibi, Dómine, placatiónis offérimus: ut et delícta nostra miserátus absólvas, et nutántia corda tu dírigas. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte 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 omnipotens, ætérne Deus: Qui corporáli jejúnio vítia cóprimis, mentem élevas, virtútem largiris et præmia: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dóminatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælórumque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admítti júbeas, deprecámur, súpplíci confessióne dicéntes:

COMMUNION Matthew 16: 18

Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificábo Ecclésiám meam.

POSTCOMMUNION

Deus, qui beátum Gregórium Pontíficem Sanctórum tuórum méritis coæquásti: concéde propítius; ut, qui commemoratiónis ejus festa percólimus, vitæ quoque imitémur exémpla. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Lenten Feria: Wednesday, 1st week

Tui, Dómine, perceptióne sacraménti, et a nostris mundetur occúltis, et ab hóstium liberémur insidiis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Simon Peter, if thou lovest Me, feed My lambs, feed My sheep. (Ps. 29: 1) I will extol Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast upheld me: and hast not made my enemies to rejoice over 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. Simon Peter, if thou lovest Me, feed My lambs, feed My sheep.

O God, Who hast conferred the rewards of everlasting happiness upon the soul of Thy servant Gregory, mercifully grant that we, who are oppressed by the burden of our sins, may be relieved by his prayers to Thee. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Of Thy mercy hear our prayers, O Lord, and stretch forth the right hand of Thy majesty against all things that work against 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.

Dearly beloved, The ancients therefore that are among you, I beseech, who am myself also an ancient, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ: as also a partaker of that glory which is to be revealed in time to come: feed the flock of God which is among you, taking care of it, not by constraint, but willingly, according to God: not for filthy lucre's sake, but voluntarily: neither as lording it over the clergy, but being made a pattern of the flock from the heart. And when the Prince of pastors shall appear, you shall receive a never fading crown of glory. But the God of all grace, Who hath called us into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little, will Himself perfect you, and confirm you, and establish you. To Him be glory and empire for ever and ever. Amen.

Let them exalt him in the church of the people: and praise him in the chair of the ancients. Let the mercies of the Lord give glory to him: and his wonderful works to the children of men.

I have declared Thy justice in a great church, lo, I will not restrain my lips: O Lord, Thou knowest it. I have not hid Thy justice within my heart: I have declared Thy truth and Thy salvation. I have not concealed Thy mercy and Thy truth from a great council.

And Jesus came into the quarters of Cesarea Philippi: and He asked His disciples, saying: Whom do men say that the Son of man is? But they said: Some John the Baptist, and other some Elias, and others Jeremias, or one of the prophets. Jesus saith to them: But Whom do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered and said: Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answering, said to him: Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona: because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but My Father Who is in heaven. And I say to thee: That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose upon earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven.

Behold I have given My words in thy mouth: lo, I have set thee over the nations, and over kingdoms, to root up, and to pull down, and to build, and to plant.

Suffer, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that through the intercession of blessed Gregory this oblation may profit us; for by its offering Thou hast granted that the sins of all the world should be pardoned. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

We offer Thee, O Lord, the sacrifice of reconciliation, both that Thou mayest take pity and pardon our sins, and that Thou mayest direct our wavering hearts. 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 in supplication also be admitted in confessing Thee saying:

Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church.

O God, Who didst make Thy bishop Gregory equal with the saints in merit, favorably grant that we, who faithfully keep the feast of his commemoration, may also imitate the examples set by his life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

By the reception of Thy sacrament, O Lord, may we both be cleansed of our secret sins and delivered from the snares of the enemy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.