

MARCH 17, ST. PATRICK, BISHOP & CONFESSOR

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St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland, was sent to that country by Pope St. Celestine as a missionary. He found Ireland heathen and left it Christian. St. Patrick died, A.D. 464, and was buried at Down, in Ulster. He scattered the seed of the Gospel with such success that, from the innumerable band of holy men and women which it produced, the verdant land of Erin was known in the Middle Ages by the glorious title of the "Island of Saints" - a glory which three centuries of bitter persecution of the Catholic Faith at the hands of the Anglican Church utterly failed to eclipse.

Pius IX in 1859, as a tribute to the vigorous faith of this nation, raised the feast of St. Patrick which has appeared in the Roman Breviary since the Fifteenth Century, and to the rank of a double. Patrick is the great patriarch of the Irish episcopate, and of Irish monasticism. This monasticism left its mark throughout medieval Europe wherever the *Scotti* planted their tents and introduced their traditions. His feast is a holy day of obligation in Ireland; there is a church dedicated to him in Rome, not far from the *Via Salaria*.

INTROIT Ecclesiasticus 45: 30

Státuit ei Dóminus testaméntum pacis, et princípem fecit eum: ut sit illi sacerdotii dignitas in ætérnum. (Ps. 131: 1) Meménto, Dómine, David: et omnis mansuetúdinis ejus. Glória Patri et Filio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Státuit ei Dóminus testaméntum pacis, et princípem fecit eum: ut sit illi sacerdotii dignitas in ætérnum.

COLLECT

Deus, qui ad prædicándam géntibus glóriam tuam beátum Patrícium Confessórem atque Pontíficem mittere dignátus es: ejus méritis et intercessióne concéde; ut, quæ nobis agénda præcipis, te miseránte auxiliúm póssimus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of Lenten Feria

Præsta nobis, quæsumus, Dómine, auxiliúm grátiae tuæ: ut, jejúniis et oratióibus convenienter intéti, liberémur ab hóstibus mentis et córporis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON

Ecclesiasticus 44: 16-27; 45: 3-20

Ecce sacérdos magnus, qui in diébus suis plácuít Deo, et invéntus est justus: et in témpore iracúndiæ factus est reconciliátió. Non est invéntus similis illi, qui conservávit legem Excélsi. Ideo jurejurándo fecit illum Dóminus créscere in plebem suam. Benedictiónem ómnium géntium dedit illi, et testaméntum suum confirmávit super caput ejus. Agnóvit eum in benedictiónibus suis: conservávit illi misericórdiam suam: et invenit grátiam coram óculis Dómini. Magnificávit eum in conspéctu domus: et dedit illi corónam glóriæ. Státuit illi testaméntum ætérnum, et dedit illi sacerdotium magnum: et beatificávit illum in glória. Fungi sacerdotio, et habére laudem in nómine ipsíus, et offerre illi incensum dignum in odórem suavitatís.

GRADUAL Ecclesiasticus 44: 16

Ecce sacérdos magnus, qui in diébus suis plácuít Deo. (Ecclus. 44: 20) Non est invéntus similis illi, qui conserváret legem Excélsi.

TRACT Psalms 111: 1-3

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

GOSPEL Matthew 25: 14-23

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discíplis suis parábolam hanc: Homo pégre profíciscens vocávit servos suos, et tradidit illis bona sua. Et item dedit quinque talénta, álíi autem duo, álíi vero unum, unicuíque secúndum própriam virtútem, et proféctus est statim. Abiit autem, qui quinque talénta accéperat, et operátus est in eis, et lucrátus est álía quinque. Simíliter et, qui duo accéperat, lucrátus est álía duo. Qui autem unum accéperat, ábiens fodit in terram, et abscóndit pecúniám dómíni sui. Post multum vero témporis venit dóminus servórum illórum, et pósuit ratiónem cum eis. Et accédens qui quinque talénta accéperat, óbtulit álía quinque talénta, dicens: Dómine, quinque talénta tradidísti mihi, ecce, álía quinque superlucrátus sum. Ait illi dóminus ejus: Euge, serve bone et fidélis, quia super pauca fuísti fidélis, super multa te constítuam: intra in gáudium dómíni tui. Accéssit autem et qui duo talénta accéperat, et ait: Dómine, duo talénta tradidísti mihi, ecce, álía duo lucrátus sum. Ait illi dóminus ejus: Euge, serve bone et fidélis, quia super pauca fuísti fidélis, super multa te constítuam: intra in gáudium dómíni tui.

OFFERTORY Psalms 88: 21-22

Invéni David servum meum, óleo sancto meo unxi eum: manus enim mea auxiliábitur ei, et bráchium meum confortábit eum.

SECRET

Sancti tui, quæsumus, Dómine, nos úbique lætíficent: ut, dum eórum mérita recólimus, patrocínia sentiámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of Lenten Feria

Pæsénti sacrificio, nómini tuo nos, Dómine, jejúnia dicáta sanctíficent: ut, quod observas operáta proféctur extérius, intérius nostra efféctu. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF LENT

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubique grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus: Qui corporáli jejúnio vítia cómprimis, mentem élevas, virtútem largiris et præmia: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælórumque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admítte júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confessióne dicéntes:

COMMUNION Luke 12: 42

Fidélis servus et prudens, quem constítuit dóminus super familiam suam: ut det illis in témpore trítici mensúram.

POSTCOMMUNION

Præsta, quæsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut, de percéptis, intercedénte grátias exhibéntes, intercedénte beátio Patrício Confessóre tuo atque Pontífice, beneficia potióra sumámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of Lenten Feria

Grátia tua nos, quæsumus, Dómine, non derelínquat: quæ et sacræ nos déditos fáciat servitúti, et tuam nobis opem semper acquírat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

The Lord made to him a covenant of peace, and made him a prince; that the dignity of priesthood should be to him forever. (Ps. 131: 1) O Lord, remember David: and all his meekness. 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 Lord made to him a covenant of peace, and made him a prince; that the dignity of priesthood should be to him forever.

O God, Who didst deign to send blessed Patrick, Thy confessor and bishop, to preach Thy glory to the nations, grant through his merits and intercession, that those commands which Thou dost set before us we may by Thy mercy be able to fulfill. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Grant us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the assistance of Thy grace, that, being intent, as becometh us, upon fasting and prayer, we may be delivered from the enemies of soul and of body. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Behold a great priest, who in his days pleased God, and was found just; and in the time of wrath was made a reconciliation. There was not any found like to him, who kept the law of the Most High. Therefore by an oath the Lord made him increase among his people. He gave him the blessing of all nations, and confirmed His covenant upon his head. He acknowledged him in His blessings: He preserved for him His mercy: and he found grace before the eyes of the Lord. He glorified him in the sight of kings, and gave him a crown of glory. He made an everlasting covenant with him; and gave him a great priesthood; and made him blessed in glory. To execute the office of the priesthood and to have praise in his name, and to offer to him worthy incense for an odor of sweetness.

Behold a great priest, who in his days pleased God. (Ecclus. 44: 20) There was not any found like to him, who kept the law of the Most High.

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord: in His commandments he hath great delight. 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 spoke this parable to His disciples: A man going into a far country called his servants, and delivered to them his goods. And to one he gave five talents, and to another two, and to another one, to every one according to his proper ability: and immediately he took his journey. And he that had received the five talents, went his way, and traded with the same, and gained other five. And in like manner he that had received the two, gained other two. But he that had received the one, going his way digged into the earth, and hid his lord's money. But after a long time the lord of those servants came, and reckoned with them. And he that had received the five talents coming, brought other five talents, saying: Lord, thou didst deliver to me five talents, behold I have gained other five over and above. His lord said to me: Well done, good and faithful servant, because thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will place thee over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. And he also that had received the two talents came and said: Lord, thou deliveredst two talents to me: behold I have gained other two. His lord said to him: Well done, good and faithful servant: because thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will place thee over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

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.

May Thy saints, we beseech Thee, O Lord, everywhere make us joyful, that, while we venerate their merits, we may experience their patronage. 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 sacrifice here before Thee, O Lord, may the fasts dedicated to Thy name sanctify us, and inwardly effect that which it outwardly professeth. 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:

This is the faithful and wise steward, whom his lord setteth over his family: to give them their measure of wheat in due season.

Grant, we beseech Thee, almighty God, that as we thank Thee for the favors that have received, we may, by the intercession of blessed Patrick, Thy Confessor and Bishop, obtain still greater blessings. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

May Thy grace, we beseech Thee, O Lord, not depart from us, but render us devoted to Thy sacred service and ever obtain for us Thine aid. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.