

MARCH 27, ST. JOHN DAMASCENE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

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St. John of Damascus suffered much from the Greek Emperors of Constantinople for upholding the teachings of the Church in regard to the religious honor shown to pictures and statues of the saints. After many persecutions, he went to his reward in heaven in 754.

Pope Leo XIII ordered his feast to be celebrated by the Church. His many writings, his knowledge, piety, and eloquence caused him to be compared by the Second Council of Nicea to a "river of gold." He was the last Byzantine to contribute anything to the formation of the Catholic theological structure.

While not a bishop, nor a leader of men, by loving truth and preaching it fearlessly he became a light to shine in the darkness of those separated from the apostolic communion.

INTROIT Psalms 72: 24

Tenuísti manum dexteram meam: et in voluntate tua deduxisti me, et cum gloria suscepisti me. (Ps. 72: 1) Quam bonus Israël Deus his, qui recto sunt corde! Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. Tenuísti manum dexteram meam: et in voluntate tua deduxisti me, et cum gloria suscepisti me.

COLLECT

Omnipotens sempiternus Deus, qui, ad cultum sacrarum imaginum asserendum, beatum Joannem coelestis doctrina et admirabili spiritus fortitudine imbuisti: concede nobis ejus intercessione et exemplo; ut, quorum colimus imagines, virtutes imitemur et patrocinia sentiamus. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

LESSON Wisdom 10: 10-17

Justum deduxit Dominus per vias rectas, et ostendit illi regnum Dei, et dedit illi scientiam sanctorum: honestavit illum in laboribus, et complavit labores illius. In fraude circumvenientium illum affuit illi, et honestum fecit illum. Custodivit illum ab inimicis, et a seductoribus tutavit illum, et certamen forte dedit illi, ut vinceret et sciret, quoniam omnium potentior est sapientia. Hec venditum justum non dereliquit, sed a peccatoribus liberavit eum: descenditque cum illo in foveam, et in vinculis non dereliquit illum, donec afferret illi sceptrum regni, et potentiam adversus eos, qui eum deprimebant: et mendaces ostendit, qui maculaverunt illum, et dedit illi claritatem aeternam. Hec populum justum et semen sine querela liberavit a nationibus, quae illum deprimebant. Intraivit in animam servi Dei, et stetit contra reges horrendos in portentis et signis. Et reddidit justis mercedem laborum suorum.

GRADUAL Psalms 17: 33, 35

Deus, qui praecinxit me virtute: et posuit immaculatam viam meam. Qui docet manus meas ad praelium: et posuisti, ut arcum aereum, brachia mea.

TRACT Psalms 17: 38, 39, 50

Persequar inimicos meos, et comprehendam illos. Confringam illos, nec poterunt stare: cadent subtus pedes meos. Propterea confitebor in nationibus, Domine, et nomini tuo psalmum dicam.

GOSPEL Luke 6: 6-11

In illo tempore: Factum est et in alio sabbato, ut intraret Jesus in synagogam et doceret. Et erat ibi homo, et manus ejus dextera erat arida. Observabant autem scribae et pharisaei, si in sabbato curaret: ut invenirent, unde accusarent eum. Ipse vero sciens cogitationes eorum. Et ait homini, qui habebat manum aridam: Surge et sta in medium. Et surgens stetit. Ait autem ad illos Jesus: Interrogo vos, si licet sabbatis benefacere, an male: animam salvam facere, an perdere? Et circumspectis omnibus dixit homini: Extende manum tuam. Et extendit: et restituta est manus ejus. Ipsi autem replati sunt insipientia, et colloquebantur ad invicem, quidnam facerent Jesu.

OFFERTORY Job 14: 7

Lignum habet spem: siperacisum fuerit, rursum virescit, et rami ejus pullulant.

SECRET

Ut, quae tibi, Domine, offerimus, dona tuo sint digna conspectu: beati Joannis et Sanctorum, quos ejus opera expositos in templis colimus, pia suffragatio conspiret. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

PREFACE OF LENT

Vere dignum et justum est, aequum et gratias, nos tibi semper et ubique salutis agere: Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, aeternus Deus: Qui corporali jejunio vitia comprimis, mentem elevas, virtutem largiris et praemia: per Christum Dominum nostrum. Per quem majestatem tuam laudant Angeli, adorant Dominationes, tremunt Potestates. Caeli caelorumque Virtutes ac beata Seraphim socia exultatione concelibrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admitti jubeas, deprecamur, supplici confessione dicentes:

COMMUNION Psalms 36: 17

Brachia peccatorum conterentur, confirmat autem justos Dominus.

POSTCOMMUNION

Sumpta nos, quaesumus, Domine, dona coelestibus armis tueantur: et beati Joannis patrocinia circumdant Sanctorum unanimi suffragio cumulata; quorum imagines evicit in Ecclesia esse venerandas. Per Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

Thou hast held me by my right hand, and by Thy will Thou hast conducted me, and with Thy glory Thou hast received me. (Ps. 72: 1) How good is God to Israel, to them that are of a right heart! 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. Thou hast held me by my right hand, and by Thy will Thou hast conducted me, and with Thy glory Thou hast received me.

O almighty and everlasting God, Who didst fill blessed John with heavenly learning and with wonderful fortitude of spirit, that he might uphold the devotion due to holy images: grant us through his intercession and example, that we who revere the images of the Saints may both imitate their virtues and enjoy 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.

The Lord conducted the just through the right ways, and showed him the kingdom of God, and gave him the knowledge of holy things: made him honorable in his labors, and accomplished his labors. In the deceit of them that overreached him, He stood by him, and made him honorable. He kept him safe from his enemies, and He defended him from seducers, and gave him a strong conflict, that he might overcome, and know that wisdom is mightier than all. He forsook not the just when he was sold, but delivered him from sinners: He went down with him into the pit. And in bands He left him not, till He brought him the sceptre of the kingdom, and power against those that oppressed him: and shewed them to be liars that had accused him, and the Lord our God gave him everlasting glory. She delivered the just people and the blameless seed from the nations that oppressed them. She entered into the soul of the servant of God, and stood against dreadful kings in wonders and signs. And she rendered to the just the wages of their labors.

God, Who hath girt me with strength: and made my way blameless. Who teacheth my hands to war: and hast made my arms like a brazen bow.

I will pursue after mine enemies, and overtake them. I will break them, and they shall not be able to stand: they shall fall under my feet. Therefore will I give glory to Thee, O Lord, among the nations, and I will sing a psalm to Thy name.

At that time: It came to pass also on another sabbath, that Jesus entered into the synagogue, and taught. And there was, a man, whose right hand was withered. And the scribes and pharisees watched if He would heal on the sabbath; that they might find an accusation against Him. But He knew their thoughts; and said to the man who had the withered hand: Arise, and stand forth in the midst. And rising he stood forth. Then Jesus said to them: I ask you, if it be lawful on the sabbath-days to do good or to do evil; to save life, or to destroy? And looking round about on them all, He said to the man: Stretch forth thy hand. And he stretched it forth; and his hand was restored. And they were filled with madness; and they talked one with another, what they might do to Jesus.

A tree hath hope: if it be cut, it groweth green again, and the boughs thereof sprout.

That the gifts we offer Thee, O Lord, may be worthy in Thy sight, let the loving intercession of blessed John be joined with that of Thy saints, whose visible forms we, by his doing, venerate in our churches. 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 arms of the wicked shall be broken in pieces, but the Lord strengtheneth the just.

May the gifts we have received, O Lord, we beseech Thee, guard us with their heavenly weapons, and the patronage of blessed John compass us about, reinforced by the united prayers of the saints, the veneration of whose images by Thy Church he vindicated. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.