

APRIL 30, ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN

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St. Catherine of Siena was the twenty-third in a family of twenty-four children. She is best known for the work she did in persuading Gregory XI in bringing the Papacy from Avignon back to Rome. She worked miracles for the sake of the poor and the afflicted. At the age of eighteen she received the habit of the Third Order of St. Dominic. For three years she never spoke to anyone but God and her confessor. During her prolonged fast her only food was Holy Communion. Our Savior appearing to her on one occasion offered her a crown of thorns and another of roses, bidding her choose; she eagerly took the crown of thorns and forcibly pressed it upon her head. She died in 1380.

INTROIT Psalms 44: 8

Dilexisti iustitiam, et odisti iniquitatem: propterea unxit te Deus, Deus tuus, oleo lætitiæ præ consórtibus tuis. Allelúja, allelúja. (Ps. 44: 2) Eructávit cor meum verbum bonum: dico ego ópera mea Regi. Glória Patri et Filio et Spirítui Sancti, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Dilexisti iustitiam, et odisti iniquitatem: propterea unxit te Deus, Deus tuus, oleo lætitiæ præ consórtibus tuis. Allelúja, allelúja.

COLLECT

Da, quæsumus, omnipotens Deus: ut, qui beátæ Catharinæ Virginitatis tuæ natalitia cólimus; et ánnua solemnitate lætámur, et tantæ virtútis proficiámus exémplo. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 10: 17-18; 11: 1-2

Fratres: Qui gloriátur, in Dómino gloriétur. Non enim qui seipsum comméndat, ille probátus est; sed quem Deus comméndat. Utinam sustinerétis módicum quid insipientiæ meæ, sed et supportáte me: æmulor enim vos Dei æmulatióne. Despóndi enim vos uni viro virginitatis castam exhibére Christo.

GREATER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Adducéntur regi virgines post eam: próxime ejus afferéntur tibi in lætítia. Allelúja. Spécie tua, et pulchritúdine tua inténde, prospere procéde, et regna.

GOSPEL Matthew 25: 1-13

In illo tempore: Dixit Jesus discipulis suis parabolam hanc: Símile erit regnum cælórum decem virginibus quæ accipientes lámpades suas exierunt óbviam sponso et sponsæ. Quinque autem ex eis erant fátuæ, et quinque prudéntes: sed quinque fátuæ, accéptis lámpádibus, non sumpsérunt óleum secum: prudéntes vero accepérunt óleum in vasis suis cum lámpádibus. Moram autem faciente sponso, dormitáverunt omnes et dormiérunt. Média autem nocte clamor factus est: Ecce sponsus venit, exite óbviam ei. Tunc surrexérunt omnes virgines illæ, et ornavérunt lámpádes suas. Fátuæ autem sapiéntibus dixérunt: Date nobis de óleo vestro: quia lámpades nostræ exstinguúntur. Respondérunt prudéntes, dicentes: Ne forte non sufficiat nobis, et vobis, ite pótius ad vendéntes, et émite vobis. Dum autem irent émere, venit sponso: et quæ parátæ erant, intravérunt cum eo ad núptias, et clausa est jánuæ. Novissime vero véniunt et réliquæ virgines, dicentes: Dómine, Dómine, áperi nobis. At ille respóndens ait: Amen, dico vobis, nescio vos. Vigilate itaque, quia nescitis diem, neque horam.

OFFERTORY Psalms 44: 10

Filiæ regum in honóre tuo: ádstitit regina a dextris tuis in vestítu deauráto, circúmdata varietáte. Allelúja.

SECRET

Acéndant ad te, Dómine, quas in beátæ Catharinæ solemnitate offerimus, preces, et hóstia salutáris, virgíneo fragrans odóre. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF EASTER SEASON

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, Te quidem, Dómine, omni témpore, sed in hoc potíssimum, gloriósius prædicáre, cum Pascha nostrum immolátus est Christus. Ipse enim verus est Agnus, qui ábstulit peccáta mundi. Qui mortem nostram moriendo destrúxit, et vitam resurgendo reparávit. Et ídeo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominationibus, cumque omni militiá cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus sine fine dicéntes:

COMMUNION Matthew 25: 4, 6

Quinque prudéntes virgines accepérunt óleum in vasis suis cum lámpádibus: média autem nocte clamor factus est: Ecce sponsus venit: exite óbviam Christo Dómino. Allelúja.

POSTCOMMUNION

Æternitatem nobis, Dómine, cónferat, qua pasti sumus, mensa cæléstis: quæ beátæ Catharinæ Virginitatis vitam étiam áluit temporálem. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Thou hast loved justice, and hated iniquity: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. Allelúia, allelúia. (Ps. 44: 2) My heart hath uttered a good word: I speak my works to the King. 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 loved justice, and hated iniquity: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. Allelúia, allelúia.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O almighty God, that we, who venerate the natal feast of blessed Catherine, Thy virgin, may be both gladdened by her annual solemnity and helped by the example of so great virtue. 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, he that glory, let him glory in the Lord. For not that he that commendeth himself is approved, but he whom God commendeth. Would to God you could bear with some little of my folly, but do bear with me. For I am jealous of you with the jealousy of God. For I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia. After her shall virgins be brought to the King: her neighbors shall be brought to thee with gladness. Alleluia. With thy comeliness and thy beauty set out, proceed prosperously, and reign.

At that time, Jesus spoke this parable to His disciples, The kingdom of Heaven shall be like to ten virgins, who taking their lamps went out to meet the bridegroom and the bride. And five of them were foolish, and five wise. But the five foolish, having taken their lamps, did not take oil with them; but the wise took oil in their vessels with the lamps. And the bridegroom tarrying, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was cry made, Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye forth to meet him. Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps; and the foolish said to the wise, Give us of your oil, for our lamps are gone out. The wise answered, saying, Lest perhaps there be not enough for us and for you, go you rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. Now whilst they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage, and the door was shut. But at last came also the other virgins, saying Lord, Lord, open to us; but he answering said, Amen I say to you, I know ye not. Watch ye, therefore, because you know not the day nor the hour.

The daughters of kings in thy glory: the queen stood on thy right hand in gilded clothing, surrounded with variety. Allelúia.

Let the prayers we offer on the feast-day of blessed Catherine rise up unto Thee, O Lord, and the sacrifice of salvation fragrant with the odor of virgin purity. 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 meet and just, right and for our salvation, at all times to praise Thee, O Lord, but more gloriously especially at this time above others when Christ our Pasch was sacrificed. For He is the true Lamb Who hath taken away the sins of the world: Who by dying hath destroyed our death: and by rising again hath restored us to life. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:

The five wise virgins took oil in their vessels with the lamps: and at midnight there was a cry made, Behold the bridegroom cometh: go ye forth to meet Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

May the Heavenly table, from which we have been fed, give us eternal life, O Lord, as it sustained even the temporal life of Catherine, the blessed virgin. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.