

MAY 4, ST. MONICA, WIDOW

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St. Monica, born in Africa, married a pagan whom she converted. As described in the ninth book of his Confessions, the beautiful figure of the mother of St. Augustine will continue to live in the Church as one of the finest examples of a Christian mother; night and day she prayed for her son. He tells us that she "shed for him more tears than other mothers shed over a coffin." God heard her prayers after twenty years and gave to her son, under the influence of St. Ambrose, the grace of conversion. She died at Ostia in 387, after God had granted to her and to Augustine a marvelous ecstasy.

The body of St. Monica remained at Ostia until the year 1162, when a certain Walter Prior, of the Canons Regular of Aroasia, in Belgium, removed the body secretly from its tomb and carried it off to his own monastery. The celebration of her feast on the 4th of May spread from this monastery through Belgium, Germany and France and thus came into general liturgical use.

INTROIT Psalms 118: 75, 120

Cognóvi, Dómine, quia æquitas iudicia in veritate tua humiliasti me: confíge timore tuo carnes meas, a mandátis tuis tímui. Alleluja, alleluja (Ps. 118: 1) Beáti immaculáti in via : qui ámbulant in lege Dómini. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Cognóvi, Dómine, quia æquitas iudicia in veritate tua humiliasti me: confíge timore tuo carnes meas, a mandátis tuis tímui. Alleluja, alleluja.

COLLECT

Deus, mæréntium consolátor et in te sperántium salus, qui beátæ Mónicae piás lácrimas in conversióne filii sui Augustíni misericórditer suscepísti: da nobis utriúsque intervéntu; peccáta nostra deploráre, et grátiae tuæ indulgéntiam inveníre. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE 1 Timothy 5: 3-10

Caríssime: Víduas honóra quæ vere vidum sunt. Si qua autem vídua filios, aut nepótes habet, discat primum domum suam régere, et mútuam vicem réddere paréntibus: hoc enim accéptum est coram Deo. Quæ autem vere vidua est, et desoláta, speret in Deum, et instet obsecratióibus, et oratióibus nocte, ac die. Nam quæ in delíciis est, vivens mórtua est. Et hoc præcipe, ut irreprensibiles sint. Si quis autem suórum, et máxime domesticórum curam non habet, fldem negávit, et est infidéli detérior. Vídua eligátur non minus sexagínta annórum, quæ fúerit unius viri uxor, in opéribus bonis. testimónium habens, si filios educávit, si hospítio recépít., si sanctórum pedes lavit, si tribulatiónem patiéntibus subministrávit, si omne opus bonum subsecuta est.

GREATER ALLELUIA Psalms 44: 5

Allelúja, allelúja. Spécie tua et pulchritúdine tua inténde, prospere procéde et regna. Allelúja. Propter veritátem et mansuetúdinem et justítiam: et dedúcet te mirabíliter délixtera tua. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Luke 7: 11-16

In illo témpore: Ibat Jesus in civitátem, quæ vocátur Naím: et ibant cum eo discípuli ejus et turba copiósa. Cum autem appropinquáret portæ civitátis, ecce, defúnctus efferebátur filius únicus matris suæ: et hæc vídua erat, et turba civitátis multa cum illa. Quam cum vidisset Dóminus, misericórdia motus super eam, dixit illi: Noli flere. Et accéssit et tétigit lóculum. (Hi autem, qui portábant, steterunt.) Et ait: Adoléscens, tibi dico, surge. Et resédit, qui erat mórtuus, et coepit loqui. Et dedit illum matri suæ. Accépit autem omnes timor: et magnificábant Deum, dicétes: Quia Prophéta magnus surrêxit in nobis: et quia Deus visitávit plebem suam.

OFFERTORY Psalms 44: 3

Diffusa est gratia in labiis tuis: propterea benedixit te Deus in æternum, et in saeculum saeculi. Allelúja.

SECRET

Accépta tibi sit, Dómine, sacrátæ plebis oblátio pro tuórum se méritis, de tribulatióne percepísse cognóscit auxiliúm. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus 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 moriéndó destrúxit, et vitam resurgéndo reparávit. Et ideo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dóminatióibus, cumque omni milítia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus sine fine dicétes:

COMMUNION Psalms 44: 8

Dilexísti justitiam, et odísti iniquitátem: propterea unxit te Deus, Deus tuus, óleo lætitiae præ consórtibus tuis. Allelúja.

POSTCOMMUNION

Satiásti, Dómine, familiam tuam munéribus sacrís: ejus, quæsumus, cujus semper interventióne nos refóve, cujus solémnia celebrámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are equity, and in Thy truth Thou hast humbled me: pierce Thou my flesh with Thy fear, I am afraid of Thy judgments. Alleluia, alleluia (Ps. 118: 1) Blessed are the undefiled in the way: who walk in the law of the Lord. 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. I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are equity, and in Thy truth Thou hast humbled me: pierce Thou my flesh with Thy fear, I am afraid of Thy judgments. Alleluia, alleluia.

O God, the consoler of them that mourn and the health of them that hope in Thee, Who didst show Thine acceptance of blessed Monica's pious tears in the conversion of her son Augustine, grant us, by the intercession of them both, to deplore our sins and find the mercy of Thy grace. 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: Honor widows, that are widows indeed. But if any widow have children, or grandchildren, let her learn first to govern her own house, and to make a return of duty to her parents: for this is acceptable before God. But she that is a widow indeed and desolate, let her trust in God, and continue in prayers and supplications night and day. For she that liveth in pleasures, is dead while she is living. And this give in charge, that they may be blameless. But if any man have not care of his own, and especially of those of his house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. Let a widow be chosen of no less than threescore years of age, who hath been the wife of one husband, having testimony for her good works, if she have brought up children, if she have received to harbor, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have ministered to them that suffer tribulation, if she have diligently followed every good work.

Alleluia, alleluia. With thy comeliness, and thy beauty, set out, proceed prosperously, and reign. Alleluia. Because of truth, and meekness, and justice: and thy right hand shall conduct thee wonderfully, Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus went into a city called Naim: and there went with Him His disciples, and a great multitude. And when He came nigh to the gate of the city, behold a dead man was carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a great multitude of the city were with her. And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her, and said to her: Weep not. And He came near and touched the bier. And they that carried it stood still. And He said: Young man, I say to thee, Arise. And he that was dead, sat up, and began to speak. And He delivered him to his mother. And there came a fear on them all: and they glorified God, saying: A great prophet is risen up among us, and God has visited His people.

Grace is poured abroad in thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever and for ages of ages. Alleluia.

May the offerings of thy holy people be accepted by Thee, O Lord, in honor of Thy saints, through whose merits they know that they have received aid in time of trouble. 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, certainly at all times to proclaim Thee, O Lord, but above all in this time more gloriously, 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:

Thou hast loved justice and hated iniquity: therefore God thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. Alleluia.

Thou hast filled Thy household, O Lord, with sacred gifts; ever comfort us, we beseech Thee, by the intercession of the saint whose festival we celebrate. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.