

JUNE 18, ST. EPHREM OF SYRIA, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

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St. Ephrem born at Nisibis in Mesopotamia of a pagan father, was cast out of his home and lived as a hermit in the desert. He never became a priest but was deacon of the Church of Edessa. From early times, because of his opposition to the Arians, he had been famed as a teacher of the Universal Church; not only the Syrians, but the Byzantines, the Slavs, the Armenians, and the Copts had incorporated in their liturgical books the melodious compositions of the celebrated Deacon of Edessa, who was called in consequence by the Eastern Church the "Lyre of the Holy Spirit." He died at Edessa in 379. In 1918, the year in which the Centenary of St. Jerome was being kept, Pope Benedict XV compared these two heroic monks of the East. On October 5, 1920, this same Pope proclaimed St. Ephrem a Doctor of the Church. He is the only Deacon honored with the title of Doctor.

Commemoration of Sts. Mark & Marcellianus, Martyrs: Sts. Mark and Marcellianus were twin brothers of an illustrious family in Rome. They gave their lives for Christ in 286, under the persecutions of Diocletian, after suffering cruel torture.

INTROIT Ecclesiasticus 15: 5

In médio Ecclésiæ aperuit os ejus: et implévit eum Dóminus spírítu sapiéntiæ et intelléctus: stolam glóriæ índuit eum. (Ps. 91: 2) Bonum est confitéri Dómino: et psállere nómini tuo Altíssime. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spírítui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. In médio Ecclésiæ aperuit os ejus: et implévit eum Dóminus spírítu sapiéntiæ et intelléctus: stolam glóriæ índuit eum.

COLLECTS

Deus, qui Ecclésiám tuam beáti Ephræm Confessóris tui et Doctóris mira eruditóne et præcláris vitæ méritis illustráre voluísti: te súpplices exorámus; ut, ipso intercedénte, eam advérsus erróris et pravítatis insídias perénni tua virtúte deféndas. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of Sts. Mark & Marcellianus, Martyrs.)

Præsta, quæsumus, omnipotens Deus: ut, qui sanctórum Mátyrum tuórum Marci et Marcelliáni natalítia cólimus; a cunctis malis imminéntibus eórum intercessiónibus liberémur. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE 2 Timothy 4: 1-8

Caríssime: Testíficor coram Deo, et Jesu Christo, qui judicatúrus est vivos et mórtuos, per advéntum ipsíus, et regnum ejus: prædica verbum, insta oportúne, importúne: árgue, óbseca, increpa in omni patiéntia, et doctrína. Erit enim tempus, cum sanam doctrínam non sustinébunt, sed ad sua desidéria coacervábunt sibi magístros, pruriéntes áuribus, et a verítate quidem audítum avértent, ad fábulas autem converténtur. Tu vero vígila, in ómnibus labóra, opus fac evangelístæ, ministérium tuum imple. Sóbrius esto. Ego enim iam delíbor, et tempus resolutiónis meæ instat. Bonus certámen certávi, cursum consummávi, fidem servávi. In réliquo repósita est mihi coróna justítiae, quam reddet mihi Dóminus in illa die, justus judex: non solum autem mihi, sed et iis, qui dilígunt advéntum ejus.

GRADUAL Psalms 36: 30, 31

Os justí meditábitur sapiéntiam, et lingua ejus loquétur júdiciúm. Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsíus: et non supplantabúntur gressus ejus.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Ecclesiasticus 45: 8

Allelúja, allelúja. Amávit eum Dóminus, et ornávit eum: stolam glóriæ índuit eum. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 5: 13-19

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discípulis suis: Vos estis sal terræ. Quod si sal evanúerit, in quo saliétur? Ad níhilum valet ultra, nisi ut mittátur foras, et conculcétur ab homínibus. Vos estis lux mundi. Non potest civitas abscondi supra montem pósita. Neque accéndunt lucérnam, et ponunt eam sub módio, sed super candelábrum, ut lúceat ómnibus qui in domo sunt. Sic lúceat lux vestra coram homínibus: ut vídeant ópera vestra bona, et gloríficent Patrem vestrum, qui in cælis est. Nolíte putáre quóniam veni sólvete legem aut prophétas: non veni sólvete, sed adimpléte. Amen quoniam dico vobis, donec transeat cælum et terra, iota unum aut unus apex non præteríbit a lege donec ómnia fiant. Qui ergo sólverit unum de mandátis istis mínimis, et docúerit sic hómines, mínimus vocábitur in regno cælórum: qui autem fecérit et docúerit, hic magnus vocábitur in regno cælórum.

OFFERTORY Psalms 91: 13

Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus, quæ in Líbano est, multiplicábitur.

SECRETS

Sancti Ephræm Confessóris tui atque Doctóris nobis, Dómine, pia non desit orátio: quæ et múnera nostra concíliet; et tuam nobis indulgéntiam semper obtíneat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of Sts. Mark & Marcellianus, Martyrs.)

Múnera tibi, Dómine, dicáta sanctífica: et, intercedéntibus sanctis Mátyribus tuis Marco et Marcelliáno, per éadem nostram Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Luke 12: 42

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

POSTCOMMUNION

Ut nobis, Dómine, tua sacrificia dent salútem: beátus Ephræm, Confessor tuus, et Doctor egrégíus, quæsumus, precátor accédat. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(Commemoration of Sts. Mark & Marcellianus, Martyrs.)

Salutáris tui, Dómine, múnere satiáti, súpplices exorámus: ut, junctis lætámur gustu, intercedéntibus sanctis Mátyribus tuis Marco et Marcelliáno, renovémur effectú. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth: and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding. He clothed him with a robe of glory. (Ps. 91: 2) It is good to give praise to the Lord: and to sing to Thy Name, O Most High. 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. In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth: and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding. He clothed him with a robe of glory.

O God, who didst will to illumine Thy Church by the wondrous learning and glorious merits of blessed Ephrem, Thy Confessor and Doctor, do Thou, we humbly entreat Thee, by his

intercession and Thy continual power, defend her against the wiles of heresy and wickedness. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

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