

On June 29, A.D. 67, St. Peter was crucified, head downward, by order of Nero, on a hill overlooking the Vatican. On the same day, St. Paul was beheaded outside one of the gates of Rome. The Romans celebrated this feast with splendor equal to, if not surpassing, that of Easter. There are two stations, the one at St. Peter's, the other at St. Paul's, but in both Masses the Collects are common to the two apostles indissolubly united in a single prayer. It is just because of this ancient feeling, which is common not only to the Romans but to all the Fathers, that the two founders of the Roman Church can never be divided.

Tradition has preserved the memory of the places in which St. Peter and St. Paul dwelt. It is certain the chair of St. Peter and the chains of St. Paul were carefully guarded. The Vatican Basilica is erected over the burial place of St. Peter; the Ostian Basilica, St. Paul's-Outside-the-Walls, honors the Apostle of the Gentiles.

INTROIT Acts 12: 11

Nunc scio vere, quia misit Dóminus Ángelum suum: et erípuit me de manu Heródis, et de omni exspectatióne plebis Judæórum. (Ps. 138: 1, 2) Dómine, probásti me, et cognovísti me: tu cognovísti sessiόνem meam, et resurrectioném meam. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Nunc scio vere, quia misit Dóminus Ángelum suum: et erípuit me de manu Heródis, et de omni exspectatióne plebis Judæórum.

COLLECT

Deus, qui hodiérnam diem Apolstolórum tuórum Petri et Pauli mártýrio consecrásti: da Ecclésiæ tuæ, eórum in ómnibus sequi præcéptum; per quos religiónis sumpsit exórdium. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of Sunday

Protéctor in te sperántium, Deus, sine quo nihil est válidum, nihil sanctum: multiplica super nos misericórdiam tuam; ut, te rectóre, te duce, sic transeámus per bona temporália, ut non amittámus ætérna. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Acts 12: 1-11

In diébus illis: Misit Heródes rex manus, ut affligeret quosdam de ecclésiá. Occídít autem Jacóbum fratrem Joánnis gládio. Videns autem quia placéret Judæis, appósuit ut apprehén-deret et Petrum erant autem dies Azymórum. Quem cum apprehendísset, misit in cárcerem, tradens quátuor materniónibus mílitum custodiéndum, volens post Pascha producere eum pópulo. Et Petrus quidem servabátur in cárcere. Orátio autem fiébat sine intermissiόne ab Ecclésiá ad Deum pro eo. Cum autem productúrus eum esset Heródes, in ipsa nocte erat Petrus dórmiens inter duos mílites, vinctus caténis duábus: et custódes ante óstium custodiébant cárcerem. Et ecce Angelus Dómini ástítit: et lumen refúlsit in habitáculo: dicens: Surge velocíter. Et cecidérunt caténæ de mánibus ejus. Dixit autem Angelus ad eum: Præcingere, et cálcea te cáligas tuas. Et fecit sic. Et dixit illi: Circúmda tibi vestiméntum tuum, et séquere me. Et éxiens sequebátur eum, et nesciébát quia verum est, quod fiébat per Angelum: existimábat autem se visum vidére. Transeúntes autem primam et secúndam custódiám, venérunt ad portam férream, quæ ducit ad civitátem: quæ ultro apérta est eis. Et exeúntes processérunt vicum unum: et contínuo discéssit Angelus ab eo. Et Petrus ad se revérsus, dixit: Nunc scio vere, quia misit Dóminus Angelum suum, et erípuit me de manu Heródis, et de omni exspectatióne plebis Judæórum.

GRADUAL Psalms 44: 17, 18

Constítues eos príncipes super omnem terram: mémoires erunt nóminis tui, Dómine. Pro pátribus tuis nati sunt tibi filii: proptérea pópuli confitebúntur tibi. Allelúja, allelúja. (Matt. 16: 18) Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificábo Ecclésiám Meam. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 16: 13-19

In illo témpore: Venit Jesus in partes Cæsaráe Philíppi, et interrogábat discípulos suos, dicens: Quem dicunt hómines esse Fílium hóminis? At illi dixérunt: Álii Joánnem Baptistám, aut unum ex prophétis. Dicit illis Jesus: Vos autem quem me esse dicitis? Respóndens Simon Petrus, dixit: Tu es Christus Fílius Dei vivi. Respóndens autem Jesus, dixit ei: Beátus est Simon BarJona: quia caro et sanguis non revelávit tibi, sed Pater Meus, Qui in Cælis est. Et ego dico tibi, quia tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificábo Ecclésiám Meam, et portæ inferi non prævalébunt advérsus eam. Et tibi dabo claves regni Cælórum. Et quodcúmque ligáveris super terram, erit ligátum et in Cælis: et quodcúmque sólveris super terram, erit solutum et in Cælis.

OFFERTORY Psalms 44: 17, 18

Constítues eos príncipes super omnem terram: mémoires erant nóminis tui, Dómine, in omni progénie et generatióne.

SECRET

Hostias, Dómine, quas, nómini tuo sacrándas offerímus, apostólica prosequátur orátio: per quam nos expiári tribuas, et deféndi. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of Sunday

Réspice, Dómine, múnera supplicántis Ecclésiæ: et salutí credéntium perpétua sanctificatióne suménda concéde. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF THE APOSTLES

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, Te Dómine supplicíter exoráre, ut gregem Tuum pastor ætérne, non déseras: sed per beátos Apóstolos tuos contínuam protectiόne custódiás. Ut iisdem rectóribus gubernétur, quos óperis Tui vicários eidem contulísti præésses pastóres. Et ideo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominatió nibus, cumque omni milítia cælestis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ Tuæ cánimus sine fine dicéntes:

COMMUNION Matthew 16: 18

Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram ædificábo Ecclésiám Meam.

POSTCOMMUNION

Quos cælesti, Dómine, aliménto satiásti: apostólicis intercessiόνibus ab omni adversitaté custódi. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Commemoration of Sunday

Sancta tua nos, Dómine, sumpta vivificent: et misericórdiæ sempitérnæ præparent expiátos. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Now I know in very deed, that the Lord hath sent His angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews. (Ps. 138: 1, 2) Lord, Thou hast proved me, and known me: Thou hast known my sitting down, and my rising up. 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. Now I know in very deed, that the Lord hath sent His angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

O God, Who hast consecrated this day to the martyrdom of Thine apostles Peter and Paul, grant to Thy Church in all things to follow their teaching from whom it received the right ordering of religion in the beginning. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

O God, the Protector of those who put their trust in Thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: multiply upon us Thy mercy, that with Thee as our ruler, and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we may not lose those which are eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

In those days, Herod the king stretched forth his hands to afflict some of the Church: and he killed James, the brother of John, with the sword; and seeing that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to take up Peter also. Now it was in the days of the Azymes: and when he had apprehended him, he cast him into prison, delivering him to four files of soldiers to be kept, intending after the pasch to bring him forth to the people. Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing by the Church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains; and the keepers before the door kept the prison: and behold an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shined in the room and he striking Peter on the side, raised him up, saying, Arise quickly; and the chains fell off from his hands: and the angel said to him, Gird thyself and put on thy sandals; and he did so: and he said to him, Cast thy garment about thee and follow me: and going out he followed him: and he knew not that it was true which was done by the angel; but he thought he saw a vision. And passing through the first and the second ward, they came to the iron gate that leadeth to the city, which of itself opened to them; and going out, they passed on through one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. And Peter coming to himself, said, Now I know in very deed that the Lord hath sent His angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

Thou shalt make them princes over all the earth: they shall remember Thy name, O Lord. Instead of Thy fathers, sons are born to Thee; therefore shall people praise Thee. Alleluia, alleluia. (Matt. 16: 18) Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus came into the quarters of Cæsarea Philippi, and He asked His disciples, saying, Whom do men say that the Son of man is? But they said, Some, John the Baptist, and other some, Elias, and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. Jesus saith to them, But whom do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered, Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answering, said to him, Blessed art thou, Simon BarJona, because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but My Father Who is in Heaven: and I say to thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it; and to thee I will give the keys of the kingdom of Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth, it shall be loosed also in Heaven.

Thou shalt make them princes over all the earth: they shall remember Thy name, O Lord, throughout all generations.

May the prayer of Thine apostles, O Lord, accompany the sacrifices which we offer to be consecrated to Thy name, and through it do Thou grant us to be pardoned and defended. Through our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Look favorably, O Lord, upon the offerings of Your prayerful Church and grant that those who believe may, in continual holiness, partake of the them for their salvation. 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, to entreat Thee humbly, O Lord, that Thou wouldst not desert Thy flock, O everlasting Shepherd, but, through Thy blessed Apostles, wouldst keep it under Thy constant protection; that it may be governed by those same rulers, whom as vicars of Thy work, Thou didst set over it to be its pastors. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, with all the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:

Thou art Peter: and upon this rock I will build My Church.

Preserve, O Lord from all dangers, by the intercession of Thine apostles, those whom Thou hast filled with Heavenly nourishment. 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 holy Gifts, O Lord, which we have received, give us life: and having purified us, prepare us for thine everlasting mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.