

JULY 8, ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL, QUEEN & WIDOW

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St. Elizabeth, Queen of Portugal, was born in 1271 and died July 4, 1336. She was distinguished for her devotion to the poor and her heroic acts of charity. Her special grace was that of making peace. The joy caused at the Aragonese Court by the birth of Elizabeth brought about the reconciliation of her father and her grandfather; death surprised the good queen whilst on a journey which she had undertaken for the purpose of procuring peace between her son and her son-in-law.

INTROIT Psalms 118: 75, 120

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

COLLECT

Clementíssime Deus, qui beátam Elísabeth reginam, inter céteras egrégias dotes, bélicí furóris sedándi prærogatíva decorásti: da nobis, ejus intercessióne; post mortális vitæ, quam suppliciter pétimus, pacem, ad æténa gáudia perveníre. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

(On the feast of a holy widow, the reading from St. Paul to Timothy, found at the end of this Mass, is often read.)

LESSON: Prov 31:10-31

Mulíerem fortem quis invéniet? Procul et de últimis finibus prétium ejus. Confidit in ea cor viri sui, et spólis non indigébit. Reddet ei bonum, et non malum, ómnibus díebus vitæ suæ. Quæsivit lanam et linum, et operáta est consílio mánuum suárum. Facta est quasi navis institóriis, de longe portans panem suum. Et de nocte surréxit, dedítque prædam domésticis suis, et cibária ancillis suis. Considerávit agrum, et emit eum: de fructu mánuum suárum plantávit víneam. Accínxit fortítudine lumbos suos, et roborávit bráchium suum. Gustávit, et vidit, quia bona est negotiátio ejus: non exstinguétur in nocte lucérna ejus. Manum suam misit ad fórtia, et dígiti ejus apprehénderent fustum. Manum suam apéruit ínopi, et palmas suas exténdit ad páuperem. Non tímébit dómui suæ a frigóribus nivis: omnes enim doméstici ejus vestíti sunt duplícibus. Stragulátam vestem fecit sibi: byssus et púrpura indumentum ejus. Nóbilis in portis vir ejus, quando séderit cum senatóribus terræ. Síndonem fecit et véndidit, et cíngulum tradidit Chananaeo. Fortítudo et decor indumentum ejus, et ridébit in die novíssimo. Os suum apéruit sapiéntiæ, et lex cleméntiæ in lingua ejus. Considerávit sémitas domus suæ, et panem otíosa non comédit. Surrexerunt fílii ejus, et beatíssimam prædicáverunt: vir ejus, et laudávit eam. Multæ filiæ congregáverunt divítias, tu supergréssa es univérsas. Fallax grátia, et vana est pulchritúdo: mulier tímens Dóminum, ipsa laudábitur. Date ei de fructu mánuum suárum, et laudent eam in portis ópera ejus.

GRADUAL Psalms 44: 3, 5

Diffúsa est grátia in lábiis tuis: proptérea benedíxit te Deus in ætérnum. Própter veritátem et mansuetúdinem, et justítiam: et dedúcet te mirabíliter délixtera tua. Allelúja, allelúja. Spécie tua, et pulchritúdi-ne tua inténde, prospere procéde, et regna. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 13: 44-52

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus, discípulis suis parábolam hanc: Símile est regnum coelórum thesáuro abscondito in agro: quem qui invénit homo, abscondit, et præ gáudio illius vadit, et vendit univérsa quæ habet, et emit agrum illum. Íterum símile est regnum coelórum hómini negotiátóri, quærénti bonas margaritas. Invénta autem una pretiósa margaríta, abiit, et véndidit ómnia quæ hábuit, et emit eam. Íterum símile est regnum coelórum sagénæ missæ in mare, et ex omni génere piscium congregánti. Quam, cum impléta esset, educéntes, et secus líttus sedéntes, elegérunt bonos in vasa, malos autem foras miserunt. Sic erit in consummatióne sæculi: exíbunt Ángeli, et separábunt malos de médio justórum, et mittent eos in camínium ignis: ibi erit fletus, et stridor déntium. Intellexístis hæc omnia? Dicunt ei: Étiam. Ait illis: Ideo omnis scriba doctus in regno coelórum, similis est hómini patrifámiliis, qui profert de thesáuro suo nova et vétera.

OFFERTORY Psalms 44: 3

Diffúsa est grátia in lábiis tuis: proptérea benedíxit te Deus in ætérnum. et in sæculum sæculi.

SECRET

Accépta tibi sit, Dómine, sacrátæ plebis oblátio pro tuórum se méritis, de tribulatióne percepísse cognóscit auxiliium. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Psalms 44: 8

Dilexísti justítiam, et odísti iniquitátem: proptérea unxit te Deus, Deus tuus, óleo lætítiae præ consórtibus tuis.

POSTCOMMUNION

Satiásti, Dómine, famíliam tuam munéribus sacris: ejus, quæsumus, 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.

(An alternative reading for a holy widow.)

EPISTLE 1 Timothy 5: 3-10

Caríssime: Víduas honóra quæ vere vidum sunt. Si qua autem vídua fílios, aut nepótes habet, discat primum domum suam régere, et mútuam vicem réddere paréntibus: hoc enim accéptum est coram Deo. Quæ autem vere vídua est, et desoláta, speret in Deum, et instet obsecratiónibus, et oratióibus nocte, ac die. Nam quæ in delicis est, vivens mórtua est. Et hoc præcipe, ut irreprehensibiles sint. Si quis autem suórum, et máxime domesticórum, 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 fílios educávit, si hospítio recépit., si sanctíum pedes lavávit, si tribulatiónem patiéntibus subministrávit, si omne opus bonum subsecuta est.

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. (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.

Most merciful God, Who, among other noble gifts, didst adorn Elizabeth, the blessed queen, with the gift of allaying the furies of war, grant us, by her intercession, after the peace which we seek in this mortal life, to attain unto everlasting joys. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

(On the feast of a holy widow, the reading from St. Paul to Timothy, found at the end of this Mass, is often read.)

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. Like merchant ships, she secures her provisions from afar. She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household. She picks out a field to purchase; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. she is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms. She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She fears not the snow for her household; all her charges are doubly clothed. She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing. Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the land. She makes garments and sells them, and stocks the merchants with belts. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. She watches the conduct of her household, and eats not her food in idleness. Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her: Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all. Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

Grace is poured abroad in thy lips: therefore hath God blessed thee for ever. Because of truth, and meekness, and justice: and thy right hand shall conduct thee wonderfully. Alleluia, alleluia. With thy comeliness, and thy beauty, set out, proceed prosperously, and reign. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus, spoke this parable to His disciples: The kingdom of heaven is like unto a treasure hidden in a field; which a man having found, hid it, and for joy thereof goeth, and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again the kingdom of heaven is like to a merchant seeking good pearls. Who when he had found one pearl of great price, went his way, and sold all that he had, and bought it. Again the kingdom of heaven is like to a net cast into the sea, and gathering together of all kind of fishes; which, when it was filled, they drew out, and sitting by the shore, they chose out the good into vessels, but the bad they cast forth. So shall it be at the end of the world. The angels shall go out, and shall separate the wicked from among the just. And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have ye understood all these things? They say to him: Yes. He said unto them: Therefore every scribe instructed in the kingdom of heaven, is like to a man that is a householder, who bringeth forth out of his treasure new things and old.

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

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.

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

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.

(An alternative reading for a holy widow.)

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 not be blameless. But if any man take 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 husband, 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.