

St. Nazarius was baptized by Pope Linus at Rome; in his turn he baptized the youthful Celsus. They were both beheaded at Milan about the year 368. Their bodies, buried in a garden outside the city, were found by St. Ambrose in 395. The body of St. Nazarius appeared as if it had just been beheaded. It was placed by St. Ambrose in the Basilica Romano. The body of the boy Celsus was found in another part of the garden, but was not removed. However, a basilica was later built in his honor.

Pope St. Victor, the thirteenth in order from St. Peter, is famous in the history of the Church of the first three centuries for his encyclicals addressed to all the churches, in which he appointed synods with a view to coming to an agreement concerning the date of the celebration of Easter. Even the bishops of the most remote dioceses of Asia Minor obeyed the Pope's order and sent their votes to Rome, but as these were not in accordance with the Roman view, it very nearly caused a schism. He succeeded in settling the controversy about the date of Easter, and is said to have decided that in case of necessity Baptism might be given with natural water. He was the first ecclesiastical writer to write in Latin.

St. Innocent I, Pope, Confessor (402-417), took a vigorous part in the defence of St. John Chrysostom; upheld the rights of the Holy See, and wrote a letter on liturgical questions which remains a notable document to this day.

INTROIT Psalms 78:11, 12, 10

Intret in conspectu tuo, Dómine, gémitus compeditórum: redde vicinis nostris séptuplum in sinu eórum: víndica sánguinem Sanctórum tuórum, qui effúsus est. (Ps. 78: 1) Deus, venérunt gentes in hereditátem tuam: polluérun't templum sanctum tuum: posuérun't Ierúsalem in pomórum custódiám. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sǽcula sǽculórum. Amen. Intret in conspectu tuo, Dómine, gémitus compeditórum: redde vicinis nostris séptuplum in sinu eórum: víndica sánguinem Sanctórum tuórum, qui effúsus est.

COLLECT

Sanctórum tuórum nos, Dómine, Nazárii, Celsi, Vittóris et Innocéntii conféssio beáta commúniat: et fragilitáti nostrǽ subsidium dignánter exóret. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sǽculórum.

LESSON Wisdom 10: 17-20

Réddidit Deus justis mercédem labórum suorum, et deduxit illos in via mirábili: et fuit illis in velaménto diei et in luce stellárum per noctem: tránstulit illos per Mare Rubrum, et transvéxit illos per aquam nímiám. Inimícos autem illórum demérsit in mare, et ab altitúdine inferórum edúxit illos. Ideo justí tulérunt spolia impiórum, et decantavérunt, Dómine, nomen sanctum tuum, et victrícem manum tuam laudavérunt páriter, Dómine, Deus noster.

GRADUAL Exodus 15: 11, 6

Gloríósus Deus in Sanctis suis: mirábilis in maiestáte, fáciens prodígia. Déxtera tua, Dómine, gloriificáta est in virtúte: déxtera manus tua confrégit inimícos.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Ecclesiasticus 44: 14

Allelúja, allelúja. Córpora Sanctórum in pace sepúlta sunt, et nómina eórum vivent in generatiónem et generatiónem. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Luke 21: 9-19

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discipulis suis: Cum audieritis prælia et seditiões, nolíte terréři: opórtet primum hæc fieri, sed nondum statim finis. Tunc dicébat illis: Surget gens contra gentem, et regnum advérsus regnum. Et terræmótus magni erunt per loca, et pestiléntiæ, et fames, terrorésque de cælo, et signa magna erunt. Sed ante hæc ómnia iniíciant vobis manus suas, et persecuéntur tradéntes in synagógas et custódiás, trahéntes ad reges et præsides propter nomen meum: contínget autem vobis in testimónium. Pónite ergo in córdibus vestris non præmeditári, quemádmódum respondeátis. Ego enim dabo vobis os et sapiéntiam, cui non potérunt resistere et contradícere omnes adversárii vestri. Tradémini autem a paréntibus, et frátribus, et cognátis, et amicis, et morte afficient ex vobis: et éritis ódio ómnibus propter nomen meum: et capillus de cápite vestro non períbit. In patiéntia vestra possidébitis ánimas vestras.

OFFERTORY Psalms 67: 36

Mirábilis Deus in Sanctis suis: Deus Israëli, ipse dabit virtútem et fortitúdinem plebi suæ: benedíctus Deus, allelúja.

SECRET

Concéde nobis, omnípotens Deus: ut his munéribus, quæ in sanctórum tuórum Nazarii, Celsi, Victóris et Innocéntii honóre deférimus, et te placémus exhibítis, et nos vivificémur accéptis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sǽculórum.

COMMUNION Wisdom 3: 4-6

Et si coram homínibus torménta passi sunt, Deus tentávit eos: tamquam aurum in fornáce probávit eos, et quasi holocáusta accépit eos.

POSTCOMMUNION

Sanctórum Nazárii, Celsi, Victóris et Innocéntii, Dómine, intercessióne placátus: præsta, quæsumus; ut, quod temporáli celebrámus actióne, perpétua salvatióne capiámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti Deus, per ómnia sǽcula sǽculórum.

Let the sighings of the prisoners come in before Thee, O Lord; render to our neighbors sevenfold in their bosom; revenge the blood of Thy Saints, which hath been shed. (Ps. 78: 1) O God, the heathens are come into Thine inheritance; they have defiled Thy holy temple: they have made Jerusalem as a place to keep fruit. 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. Let the sighings of the prisoners come in before Thee, O Lord; render to our neighbors sevenfold in their bosom; revenge the blood of Thy Saints, which hath been shed.

May the confession of Thy saints, Nazarius, Celsus, Victor, and Innocent, fortify us, O Lord, and may it, for the sake of their merits, obtain help for our frailty. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

God rendered to the just the wages of their labors, and conducted them in a wonderful way; and He was to them for a covert by day, and for the light of stars by night; and He brought them through the Red Sea, and carried them over through a great water. But their enemies He drowned in the sea, and from the depth of hell He brought them out. Therefore the just took the spoils of the wicked. And they sung to Thy holy name, O Lord, and they praised with one accord Thy victorious hand, O Lord, our God.

Glorious is God in His Saints, marvelous in majesty, doing wonders. Thy right hand, O Lord, is magnified in strength: Thy right hand hath slain the enemy.

Alleluia, alleluia. The bodies of the Saints are buried in peace, and their name liveth unto generation and generation. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: When you shall hear of wars and seditions, be not terrified: these things must first come to pass; but the end is not yet presently. Then he said to them: Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there shall be great earthquakes in divers places, and pestilences, and famines, and terrors from heaven; and there shall be great signs. But before all these things, they will lay their hands upon you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and into prisons, dragging you before kings and governors, for my name's sake. And it shall happen unto you for a testimony. Lay it up therefore into your hearts, not to meditate before how you shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to resist and gainsay. And you shall be betrayed by your parents and brethren, and kinsmen and friends; and some of you they will put to death. And you shall be hated by all men for my name's sake. But a hair of your head shall not perish. In your patience you shall possess your souls.

God is wonderful in His Saints: the God of Israel is He who will give power and strength to His people: blessed be God, alleluia.

Grant us, O almighty God, that we may both please Thee with the offering and be vivified by the receiving of these gifts which we bring in honor of Thy saints, Nazariis, Celsus, Victor, and Innocent. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

And though in the sight of men they suffered torments, God hath tried them: as gold in the furnace He hath proved them, and as a victim of a holocaust He hath received them.

Being appeased by the intercession of Sts. Nazarius, Celsus, Victor, and Innocent, grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that what we celebrate by a temporal service we may receive for our eternal 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.