AUGUST 5, OUR LADY OF THE SNOW

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Tradition tells us that during the pontificate of Pope Liberius, in the Fourth Century, in the heat of August, the plan of the church of St. Mary Major was traced out in a miraculous fall of snow. For this reason that basilica is known as St. Mary-of-the-Snow, and the name is also given to the feast of its dedication. The stations at Christmas are held in this Church because some relics of the Crib of Bethlehem are preserved there. The Pope was also accustomed to officiate there on the first Sunday in Advent, at the beginning of the ecclesiastical year.

INTROIT Sedulius

Salve, sancta Parens, enixa puérpera Regem: qui cælum terrámque regit in sæcula sæculórum. (Ps 44: 2) Eructávit cor meum verbum bonum: dico ego ópera mea Regi. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Salve, sancta Parens, enixa puérpera Regem: qui cælum terrámque regit in sæcula sæculórum.

Hail, holy Mother, thou who didst bring forth the King who rules heaven and earth for ever and ever. (Ps. 44: 2) My heart hath uttered a good word: I speak my works to the King. 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. Hail, holy Mother, thou who didst bring forth the King who rules heaven and earth for ever and ever.

COLLECT

Concéde nos fámulos tuos, quæsumus, Dómine Deus, perpétua mentis et córporis sanitáte gaudére: et, gloriósa beátæ Maríæ semper Vírginis intercessióne, a præsénti liberári tristítia etætérna pérfrui lætítia. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Grant us Thy servants, we beseech Thee, O Lord God, to enjoy perpetual health of mind and body; and by the glorious intercession of blessed Mary ever Virgin, to be delivered from present sorrows and to enjoy everlasting gladness. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

LESSON Ecclesiasticus 24: 14-16

Ab initio et ante sæcula creáta sum, et usque ad futúrum sæculum non désinam, et in habitatióne sancta coram ipso ministrávi. Et sic in Sion firmáta sum, et in cívitate sanctificáta similíter requiévi, et in Jerúsalem potéstas mea. Et radicávi in pópulo honorificáto, et in parte Dei mei heréditas illius, et in plenitúdine sanctórum deténtio mea.

From the beginning, and before the world, was I created, and unto the world to come I shall not cease to be, and in the holy dwelling place I have ministered before him, And so I was established in Sion, and in the holy city likewise I rested, and my power was in Jerusalem. And I took root in an honorable people, and in the portion of my God his inheritance, and my abode is in the full assembly of saints.

GRADUAL

Benedícta et venerábilis es, Virgo María: quæ sine tactu pudóris invénia es Mater Salvatóris. Virgo, Dei Génetrix, quem totus non capit orbis, in tua se clausit víscera factus homo.

Thou art blessed and venerable, O Virgin Mary, who with purity unstained was found to be the Mother of our Savior. Virgin Mother of God, He whom the whole world was unable to contain enclosed Himself in thy womb, being made man.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Post partum, Virgo, invioláta perí mansisti: Dei Génetrix, intercéde pro nobis. Allelúja.

Alleluia, alleluia. After childbirth thou didst still remain an inviolate virgin: Mother of God, intercede for us. Alleluia.

GOSPEL Luke 11: 27-28

In illo témpore: Loquénte Jesu ad turbas, extóllens vocem quædam múlier de turba, dixit illi: Beátus venter, qui te portávit, et úbera, quæ suxísti. At ille dixit: Quinímmo beáti, qui áudiunt verbum Dei, et custódiunt illud.

At that time, as Jesus was speaking to the multitudes, a certain woman from the crowd, lifting up her voice, said to Him: Blessed is the womb that bore Thee and the paps that gave Thee suck. But He said: Yea, rather, blessed are they who hear the word of God and keep it.

OFFERTORY Luke 1: 28, 42

Ave, María, grátia plena; Dóminus tecum: benedícta tu in muliéribus, et benedíctus fructus ventris tui.

Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

SECRET

Tua, Dómine, propitiatióne, et beátæ Maríæ semper Vírginis intercessióne, ad perpétuam atque præséntem hæc oblátio nobis proficiat prosperitátem et pacem. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

By Thy gracious mercy, O Lord, and the intercession of blessed Mary ever Virgin, may this offering be of avail to us for welfare and peace now and for evermore. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

PREFACE OF THE BVM

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubique grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnípotens, ætérne Deus: Et te in Festivitáte beátæ Maríæ semper Vírginis collaudáre, benedícere et prædicáre. Quæ et Unigénitum tuum Sancti Spíritus obumbratióne concépit: et, virginitátis glória permanénte, lumen ætérnum mundo effúdit, Jesum Christum, Dóminum nostrum. Per quem maiestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælorúmque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exsultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admítti júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confessióne dicéntes:

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation that we always and everywhere give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God: and that we should praise and bless, and proclaim Thee, in this feast of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin: Who also conceived Thine only-begotten Son by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, and the glory of her virginity still abiding, gave forth to the world the everlasting Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through whom the Angels praise Thy Majesty, the Dominations adore it, the Powers tremble: the heavens and the hosts of heaven, and the blessed Seraphim, together celebrate in exultation. With whom, we pray Thee, command that our voices of supplication also be joined in acknowledging Thee saying:

COMMUNION

Beáta víscera Maríæ Vírginis, quæ portavérunt ætérni Patris Fílium.

Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary, which bore the Son of the Eternal Father.

POSTCOMMUNION

Sumptis, Dómine, salútis nostræ subsídiis: da, quæsumus, beátæ Maríæ semper Vírginis patrocíniis nos ubíque prótegi; in cujus veneratióne hæc tuæ obtúlimus majestáti. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Having received, O Lord, these helps to our salvation, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may be ever protected by the patronage of blessed Mary ever Virgin, in whose honor we have made these offerings to Thy majesty. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.