

AUGUST 10, ST. LAWRENCE, DEACON & MARTYR

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After the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul this is the greatest festival in the ancient Roman Liturgy. The terrible martyrdom endured by the famous archdeacon deeply impressed the generations that came immediately after him, for whom Lawrence became at Rome that which Stephen had been at Jerusalem.

In order to save from confiscation some property of the Church that had been intrusted to Lawrence, he sold it and gave the proceeds to the poor. As the enemies of the Church believed he had concealed the treasures and hoped to make him reveal their hiding-place, he was roasted alive on a gridiron. After an agony of hours he expired with a prayer on his lips for the conversion of the heathens. His ashes were placed in peace by the priest Justin in the cemetery of Cyriacus. Constantine erected a basilica on the spot, which has since been rebuilt several times. The gridiron is still preserved in the old Church of San Lorenzo in Lucina.

INTROIT Psalms 95: 6

Conféssio et pulchritúdo in conspéctu ejus: sánctitas, et magnificéntia in sanctificatióne ejus. (Ps. 95: 1) Cantáte Dómino cánticum novum: cantáte Dómino, omnis terra. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Conféssio et pulchritúdo in conspéctu ejus: sánctitas, et magnificéntia in sanctificatióne ejus.

COLLECT

Da nobis, quæsumus, omnípotens Deus: vitiórum nostrorum flammam extingueré; qui beáto Lauréntio tribuísti tormentórum suórum incéndia superáre. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 9: 6-10

Fratres: Qui parce séminat, parce et metet: et qui séminat in benedictiónibus, de benedictiónibus et metet. Unusquisque prout destinávit in corde suo, non ex tristítia aut ex necessitáte: hilárem enim datórem díligit Deus. Potens est autem Deus omnem grátiam abundáre fácere in vobis, ut, in ómnibus semper omnem sufficiéntiam habéntes, abundétis in omne opus bonum, sicut scriptum est: Dispérsit, dedit paupéribus: justítia ejus manet in sæculum sæculi. Qui autem adminístrat semen seminánti: et panem ad manducándum præstábit, et multiplicábit semen vestrum, et augébit incrementa frugum justítiæ vestræ.

GRADUAL Psalms 18: 3

Probásti, Dómine, cor meum, et visitásti nocte. Igne me examinásti, et non est invénta in me iníquitas.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Levita Lauréntius bonum opus operátus est: qui per signum crucis cæcos illuminávit. Allelúja.

GOSPEL John 12: 24-26

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discíplis suis: Amen, amen, dico vobis, nisi granum fruménti cadens in terram, mórtaum fúerit, ipsum solum manet: si autem mórtaum fúerit, multum fructum affert. Qui amat ánimam suam, perdet eam: et qui odit ánimam suam in hoc mundo, in vitam ætérnam custódit eam. Si quis mihi ministrat, me sequátur: et ubi ego sum, illic et míster meus erit. Si quis mihi ministráverit, honorificábit eum Pater meus.

OFFERTORY Psalms 95: 6

Conféssio et pulchritúdo in conspéctu ejus: sánctitas, et magnificéntia in sanctificatióne ejus.

SECRET

Accipe, quæsumus, Dómine, múnera dignánte obláta: et, beáti Lauréntii suffragántibus méritis, ad nostræ salutis auxiliúm provenire concéde. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION John 12: 26

Qui mihi mínistrat, me sequátur: et ubi ego sum, illic et míster meus erit.

POSTCOMMUNION

Sacro múnere satiáti, súplices te, Dómine, deprecámur: ut, quod débitæ servitútis celebrámus offíció, intercedénte beáto Lauréntio Mártyre tuo, salvatiónis tuæ sentiámus augméntum. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

Praise and beauty are before Him: holiness and majesty in His sanctuary. (Ps. 95: 1) Sing ye to the Lord a new canticle; sing to the Lord all the earth. 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. Praise and beauty are before Him: holiness and majesty in His sanctuary.

Grant us, we beseech Thee O almighty God, to extinguish the flames of our evil dispositions, as Thou didst grant blessed Lawrence to overcome the fires of his torments. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Brethren, He who soweth sparingly, shall also reap sparingly: and he who soweth in blessings, shall also reap of blessings. Everyone as he hath determined in his heart; not with sadness, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound in you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work; as it is written, He hath dispersed abroad, He hath given to the poor: His justice remaineth forever. And He that ministereth seed to the sower, will both give you bread to eat, and will multiply your seed, and increase the growth of the fruits of your justice.

Thou hast proved my heart, O Lord, and visited it by night. Thou hast tried me by fire, and iniquity hath not been found in me.

Alleluia, alleluia. The levite Lawrence wrought a good work, who by the sign of the cross gave sight to the blind. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: Amen, amen, I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falling into the ground, die, itself remaineth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life, shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world, keepeth it unto life eternal. If any man minister to Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there also shall My minister be. If any man minister to Me, him will My Father honor.

Praise and beauty are before Him: holiness and majesty are in His sanctuary.

Accept, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the gifts offered Thee, and, by the intercession of merits of blessed Lawrence, grant that they may be as a help unto our 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.

If any man minister to me, let him follow Me: and where I am, there also shall My minister be.

Filled with Thy sacred gift, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, that what we celebrate with our homage duly given by the intercession of Thy blessed martyr Lawrence, we may also know as an increase of Thy saving grace within us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.