

AUGUST 18, ST. HELENA, EMPRESS & WIDOW

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The Cross on which Our Blessed Lord suffered for us was, following Jewish usage, buried on Mount Calvary after the Crucifixion. The precise spot was revealed in a vision to the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine, the first Christian Emperor. She was born in the lower classes, traditionally in the Greek city of Drepanon, Bithynia, in Asia Minor, which was renamed Helenopolis in her honor.

INTROIT Galatians 6: 14

Mihi autem absit gloriári, nisi in Cruce Dómini nostri Jesu Christi: nisi in Cruce mihi mundus crucifixus est, et ego mundo. (Ps. 22: 4) Virga tua et báculus tuus: ipsa me consoláta sunt. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Mihi autem absit gloriári, nisi in Cruce Dómini nostri Jesu Christi: per quem mihi mundus crucifixus est, et ego mundo.

COLLECT

Dómine Jesu Christe, qui locum, ubi Crux tua latébat, beátæ Hélenæ revelásti, ut per eam, Ecclesiám tuam hoc pretioso thesáuro ditáres: ejus nobis intercessione concéde; ut vitális ligni prétió ætérnæ viæ præmia consequámer: Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Proverbs 31: 10-31

Mulíerem fortem quis invéniet? Procul et de últimis finibus prétiúm ejus. Confídít in ea cor viri sui, et spóliis non indigébit. Reddet ei bonum, et non malum, ómnibus diébus vitæ suæ. Quæsívít lanam et linum, et operáta est consílio mánuum suárum. Facta est quasi navis institóris, de nocte portans panem suum. Et de nocte surréxit, deditque prædam domésticis suis, et cibária ancíllis suis. Considerávit agrum, et emit eum: de fructu mánuum suárum plantávit vineam. Accínxít fortitúdine 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 dígití ejus apprehendérunt fusum. Manum suam apéruit ínopi, et palmas suas exténdit ad páuperem. Non timébit 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 cingulum trádidit Chananæo. Fortitúdo et décor 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. Surrexérunt fíllii ejus, et beatíssimam prædicavérunt: vir ejus, et laudávit eam. Multæ fíliæ congregavérunt divítias, tu supergréssa es univérsas. Fallax grátia, et vana est pulchritúdo: mílier tímens Dóminum, ipsa laudábitur. Date ei de fructu mánuum suárum: et laudent eam in portis ópera ejus.

GRADUAL Psalms. 44: 13, 10

Vultum tuum deprecabúntur omnes dívites plebis: fíliæ regum in honóre tuo. (Ps. 44: 15-16) Adducentur regi vírgines post eam: próximæ ejus afferéntur tibi. Afferéntur in lætítia et exsultatióne: adducéntur in templum regis.

LESSER ALLELUIA Psalms 111: 9

Allelúja, allelúja. Dispérsit, dedit paupéribus: justítia ejus manet in sæculum sæculi. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 13: 44-52

In illo témpore: Dixit Iesus discipulis suis parábolam me: Símile est regnum cælórum thesáuro abscondito in agro: quem qui invénit homo, abscondit, et præ gáudio illius vadit, et vendit univérsa, quæ habet, et emit agrum illum. Iterum símile est regnum cælórum hómíni negotiátóri, quærénti bonas margarítas. Invénta autem una pretiósá margaríta, ábiit, et véndidit ómnia, quæ hábuit, et emit eam. Iterum símile est regnum cælórum sagénae, missæ in mare et ex omni génere piscium congregánti. Quam, cum impléta esset, educéntes, et secus litus sedéntes, elegérunt bonos in vasa, malos autem foras misérunt. Sic erit in consummatione sæculi: exhibunt Ángeli, et separábunt malos de médio iustórum, et mittent eos in camínium ignis: ibi erit fletus et stridor déntium. Intellexistis hæc ómnia? Dicunt ei: Etiam. Ait illis: Ídeo omnis scriba doctus in regno cælórum símilis est hómíni patrifamílias, qui profert de thesáuro suo nova et vétera.

OFFERTORY 1 Corinthians 2: 2

Non enim judicávi me scire áliquid inter vos nisi Jesum Christum, et hunc crucifixum.

SECRET

Per hæc sacra mystéria concéde nobis, Dómine: ut, sicut beátæ Hélenæ misericorditer tribuisti ut Fílium tuum crucifixum in corde semper gestáret; ita et nos eum in cordibus nostris perpétua deferámus: Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Canticles 7: 8

Ascéndam in palmam, et apprehéndam fructus ejus.

POSTCOMMUNION

Concéde nobis, miséricors Deus: ut, qui salutíferæ Crucis tuæ fructu in terra sumus referáti; per intercessiónem beátæ Hélenæ, eódem júgiter pérfrui mereámur in cælis: Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ: by Whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. (Ps. 22: 4) Thy rod and Thy staff: they comforted me. 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. But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ: by Whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world.

Lord Jesus Christ, who revealed to blessed Helen the place where Thy Cross was hidden, so that through her Thou would enrich Thy Church with this precious treasure: grant us by her intercession; that at the price of this vital wood we may obtain the rewards of eternal life: Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Who shall find a valiant woman? the price of her is as of things brought from afar off, and from the uttermost coasts. The heart of her husband trusteth in her, and he shall have no need of spoils. She will render him good and not evil all the days of her life. She hath sought wool and flax, and hath wrought by the counsel of her hands: she is like the merchant's ship, she bringeth her bread from afar: and she hath risen in the night, and given a prey to her household, and victuals to her maidens: she hath considered a field and bought it; with the fruit of her hands she hath planted a vineyard. She hath girded her loins with strength, and hath strengthened her arm. She hath tasted and seen that her traffic is good; her lamp shall not be put out in the night. She hath put out her hands to strong things, and her fingers have taken hold of the spindle. She hath opened her hand to the needy, and stretched out her hands to the poor. She shall not fear for her house in the cold of snow: for all her domestics are clothed with double garments. She hath made for herself clothing of tapestry; fine linen and purple is her covering. Her husband is honorable in the gates, when he sitteth among the senators of the land. She made fine linen and sold it, and delivered a girdle to the Canaanite. Strength and beauty are her clothing: and she shall laugh in the latter day. She hath opened her mouth to wisdom, and the law of clemency is on her tongue: she hath looked well to the paths of her house, and hath not eaten her bread idle. Her children rose up, and called her blessed; her husband, and he praised her. Many daughters have gathered together riches; thou hast surpassed them all. Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: the woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her works praise her in the gates.

All the rich shall entreat thy countenance: the daughters of kings in thine honor. (Ps. 44: 15-16) After her shall virgins be brought to the king: her neighbors shall be brought to thee. They shall be brought with gladness and rejoicing: they shall be brought into the temple of the king.

Alleluia, alleluia. He hath distributed, he hath given to the poor: his justice remaineth for ever and ever. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus spoke to His disciples this parable: 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.

For I judged not myself to know any thing among you, but Jesus Christ; and Him crucified.

Through these sacred mysteries grant us, O Lord, that, as you mercifully granted to blessed Helen, that she may always bear Thy crucified Son in her heart; so we will carry Him in our hearts forever: Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

I will go up into the palm tree, and will take hold of the fruit thereof.

Grant us, merciful God, that we who are renewed on earth by the fruit of Thy salutary Cross; through the intercession of blessed Helen, we deserve to perpetually enjoy the same in heaven: Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.