

AUGUST 20, ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX, ABBOT & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

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St. Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, was born in Burgundy, in 1091. He was at once a reformer of the monastic life, a preacher of the Crusade, a Doctor of the Universal Church, a worker of miracles, a peace-maker between kings, princes and peoples, the oracle of Popes, and the champion of the Roman See against schisms and heresies. The mortal frame of the saint, consumed by penance and by sickness, could scarcely contain his soul on fire for the glory of God. This fire communicated itself to those around him; his secretaries had difficulty in recording the numerous miraculous cures which he worked by the touch of his hand, or, simply by a blessing. On a visit to Italy he installed at the ancient Abbey *ad aquas Salvias*, as first abbot, Bernardo Pisano, who became Pope Eugenius III.

He died at Clairvaux, August 20, 1153, and was buried at the foot of the Blessed Virgin's altar. Pius VIII declared him a Doctor of the Church.

INTROIT Ecclesiasticus 15: 5

In médio Ecclésiæ apéruit os ejus: et implévit eum Dóminus spírítu sapiéntiæ et intelléctus: stolam glóriæ índuit eum. (Ps. 91: 2) Bonum est confitéri Dómino: et psállere nómini tuo Altíssime. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spírítui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. In médio Ecclésiæ apéruit os ejus: et implévit eum Dóminus spírítu sapiéntiæ et intelléctus: stolam glóriæ índuit eum.

COLLECT

Deus, qui pópulo tuo ætérnæ salútis beátum Bernárdum. ministrum tribuísti: præsta, quæsumus; ut quem Doctórem vitæ habuimus in terris, intercessórem habére mereámur in cælis. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Córístum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Ecclesiasticus 39: 6-14

Justus cor suum tradet ad vigilándum dilúculo ad Dóminum, qui fecit illum, et in conspéctu Altíssimi deprecábitur. Apériet os suum in oratióne, et pro delictis suis deprecábitur. Si enim Dóminus magnus volúerit, spírítu intellegéntiæ replébit illum: et ipse tamquam imbres mittet elóquia sapiéntiæ suæ, et in oratióne confitébitur Dómino: et ipse díriget consílium ejus et disciplínam, et in absconditis suis consiliábitur. Ipse palam fáciat disciplínam doctríne suæ, et in lege testaménti Dómini gloriábitur. Collaudábunt multi sapiéntiam ejus, et usque in sæculum non delébitur. Non recédet memória ejus, et nomen ejus requirétur a generatióne in generatióne. Sapiéntiam ejus enarrábunt gentes, et laudem ejus enuntiábit ecclésia.

GRADUAL Psalms 36: 30, 31

Os justí meditábitur sapiéntiam, et lingua ejus loquétur júdicium. Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsíus: et non supplantábuntur gressus ejus.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Ecclesiasticus 45: 8

Allelúja, allelúja. Amávit eum Dóminus, et ornávit eum: stolam glóriæ índuit eum. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Matthew 5: 13-19

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discíplis suis: Vos estis sal terræ. Quod si sal evanúerit, in quo saliétur? Ad níhilum valet ultra, nisi ut mittátur foras, et conculcétur ab homínibus. Vos estis lux mundi. Non potest civitas abscondi supra montem pósita. Neque accéndunt lucérnam, et ponunt eam sub módio, sed super candelábrum, ut lúceat omnibus qui in domo sunt. Sic lúceat lux vestra coram homínibus: ut vídeant ópera vestra bona, et gloríficent Patrem vestrum, qui in cælis est. Nolíte putáre quóniam veni sólvete legem aut prophétas: non veni sólvete, sed adimplére. Amen quæcumque dico vobis, donec tránseat cælum et terra, iota unum aut unus apex non præteribit a lege donec ómnia fiant. Qui ergo sólverit unum de mandátis istis mínimis, et docúerit sic hómines, mínimus vocábitur in regno cælórum: qui autem fecébit et docúerit, hic magnus vocábitur in regno cælórum.

OFFERTORY Psalms 91: 13

Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus, quæ in Líbano est, multiplicábitur.

SECRET

Sancti Bernárdi Confessóris tui atque Doctóris nobis, Dómine, pia non desit orátio: quæ et múnera nostra concíliet; et tuam nobis indulgéntiam semper obtíneat. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Luke 12: 42

Fidélis servus et prudens, quem constitúit dóminus super familiam suam: ut det illis in témpore tritici mensúram.

POSTCOMMUNION

Ut nobis, Dómine, tua sacrificia dent salútem: beátus Bernárdus, Confessor tuus, et Doctor egrégus, quæsumus, precátor accédát. Per Dóminum nostrum, Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth: and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding.

He clothed him with a robe of glory.

(Ps. 91: 2) It is good to give praise to the Lord: and to sing to Thy Name, O Most High. 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. In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth: and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding. He clothed him with a robe of glory.

O God, who didst give blessed Bernard as a minister of eternal salvation to Thy people: grant, we beseech Thee, that we, who have had him for our teacher on earth, may deserve to have him for our advocate in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

The just man will give his heart to resort early to the Lord his Maker, and he will pray in the sight of the Most High. He will open his mouth in prayer, and will ask pardon for his sins. Then, if it pleases the Lord Almighty, He will fill him with the spirit of understanding; and he will pour forth his words of wisdom as showers, and in prayer give thanks to the Lord, Who will direct his knowledge and his counsel, as he meditates upon His mysteries. He will show the wisdom of what he has learned and glory in the Law of the Lord's covenant. Many will praise his understanding; his fame can never be effaced; unfading will be his memory, through all generations his name will live; peoples will speak of his wisdom, the assembly will sing his praises.

The mouth of the just shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak judgment. The law of his God is in his heart: and his steps shall not be supplanted.

Alleluia, alleluia. The Lord loved him and adorned him: He clothed him with a robe of glory. Alleluia.

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples:

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt lose its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is good for nothing any more but to be cast out, and to be trodden on by men. You are the light of the world. A city seated on a mountain cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but upon a candlestick, that it may shine to all that are in the house. So let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets. I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For amen I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot, or one tittle shall not pass of the law, till all be fulfilled. He therefore that shall break one of these least commandments, and shall so teach men, shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. But he that shall do and teach, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

The just shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow up, like the cedar of Libanus.

May the holy prayer of St. Bernard, Thy Confessor and Doctor, fail us not, O Lord: may it render our offerings acceptable, and ever obtain for us Thy pardon. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

The faithful and wise servant, whom his lord setteth over his family: to give them their measure of wheat in due season.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, that blessed Bernard, Thy Confessor and illustrious Doctor, may approach to pray for us, that these Thy sacrifices may bring us 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.