

AUGUST 25, ST. LOUIS IX, CONFESSOR

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Today we commemorate a king who was a faithful disciple of Christ Crucified, and whose life bears witness to the truth that virtue is not always rewarded in this world. Louis was inspired by his zeal for the Faith to attempt the reconquest of the Holy Places sanctified by the blood of the Redeemer; but, instead of triumph and victory, he only met with defeat and captivity; yet, when he was at last ransomed by his people, he brought back to Paris as a symbolic trophy of his campaigns the crown of thorns once worn by Our Savior. He died of plague under the walls of Tunis, to which city he was about to lay siege, on August 25, 1270. Christian Rome dedicated a celebrated church to him, not far from the Stadium Domitiani.

The customs of genuflecting at the words in the *Credo*, "*et homo factus est*", and also of making a profound reverence at the passage in the Gospels recording the death of Jesus, were introduced by this pious king in his own chapel. They are now part of the universal liturgy.

INTROIT Psalms 36: 30, 31

Os justi meditabitur sapiéntiam, et lingua ejus loquétur júdicium: lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius, (Ps. 36: 1) Noli æmulári in malignántibus: neque zeláveris faciéntes iniquitátem. Glória Patri et Filio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Os justi meditabitur sapiéntiam, et lingua ejus loquétur júdicium: lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius.

COLLECT

Deus, qui beátum Ludovicum Confessórem tuum de terréno regno ad cæléstis regni glóriam transtulísti: ejus, quæsumus, méritis et intercessióne; Regis regum Jesu Christi, Fílii tui, fácias nos esse consórtes: Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Wisdom 10: 10-14

Justum dedúxit Dóminus per vias rectas, et osténdit illi regnum Dei, et dedit illi sciéntiam sanctórum: honestávit illum in labóribus, et complévit labóres illius. In fraude circumveniéntium illum áffuit illi, et honestum fecit illum. Custodívit illum ab inimicis, et a seductóribus tutávit illum, et certámen forte dedit illi, ut vínceret et sciret, quóniam ómnium poténtior est sapiéntia. Hæc vénditum justum non dereliquit, sed a peccatóribus liberávit eum: descendítque cum illo in fóveam, et in vínculis non dereliquit illum, donec afférret illi sceptrum regni, et poténtiam advérsus eos, qui eum deprimébant: et mendáces osténdit, qui maculavérunt illum, et dedit illi claritátem ætérnam, Dóminus, Deus noster.

GRADUAL Psalms 91: 13, 14

Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus Líbani multiplicátur in domo Dómini. Ad annuntiándum mane misericórdiam tuam, et veritátem tuam per noctem.

LESSER ALLELUIA James 1: 12

Allelúja, allelúja. Beátus vir, qui suffert tentatiónem. quóniam cum probátus fúerit, accípiet corónam vitæ. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Luke 19: 12-26

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discíplis suis parábolam hanc: Homo quidam nóbilis ábiit in regionem longínquam accíperé sibi regnum, et revérti. Vocátis autem decem servis suis, dedit eis decem mnas, et ait ad illos: Negotiámini, dum vénio. Cives autem ejus óderant eum: et misérunt legatiónem post illum, dicéntes: Nólumus hunc regnáre super nos. Et factum est, ut redíret accépto regno: et jussit vocári servos, quibus dedit pecúniám, ut sciret, quantum quisque negotiátus esset. Venit autem primus, dicens: Dómine, mna tua decem mnas acquisívit. Et ait illi: Euge, bone serve, quia in mó dico fuísti fidélis, decem potestátem habens super decem civitátes. Et alter venit, dicens: Dómine, mna tua fecit quinque mnas. Et huic ait: Et tu esto super quinque civitátes. Et alter venit, dicens: Dómine, ecce mna tua, quam hábui repósitam in austário: tímui enim te, quia homo austérus es: tollis, quod non posuísti, et metis, quod non seminásti. Dicit ei: De ore tuo te júdico, serve nequam. Sciébas, quod ego homo austérus sum, tollens, quod non pósui, et metens, quod non seminávi: et quare non dedísti pecúniám meam ad mensam, ut ego véniens cum usúris útique exegíssem illam? Et astántibus dixit: Auferte ab illo mnam et date illi, qui decem mnas habet. Et dixérunt ei: Dómine, habet decem mnas. Dico autem vobis: Quia omni habénti dábitur, et abundábit: ab eo autem, qui non habet, et, quod habet, auferétur ab eo.

OFFERTORY Psalms 88: 25

Véritas mea et misericórdia mea cum ipso: et in nómine meo exaltábitur cornu ejus.

SECRET

Præsta, quæsumus, omnípotens Deus: ut, sicut beátus Ludovicus Confessor tuus, spretis mundi oblectaméntis, soli Regi Christo placére stúduit; ita ejus orátio nos tibi reddat accéptos. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

COMMUNION Matthew 24: 46-47

Beátus ille servus quem cum vénerit dóminus ejus invénerit sic faciéntem. Amen dico vobis quóniam super ómnia bona sua constituet eum.

POSTCOMMUNION

Deus, qui beátum Confessórem tuum Ludovicum mirificásti in terris, et gloriósum in cælis fecísti: eúndem, quæsumus, Ecclésiæ tuæ constitué defensórem. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

The mouth of the just shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak judgment: the law of his God is in his heart. (Ps. 36: 1) Be not emulous of evildoers: nor envy them that work iniquity. 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. The mouth of the just shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak judgment: the law of his God is in his heart.

God, Who didst take Thy blessed confessor, Louis, from an earthly throne to the glory of the Heavenly kingdom, by his merits and intercession we beseech Thee that Thou make us to be associates of the King of kings, Jesus Christ Thy Son. Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

The Lord conducted the just through the right ways, and showed him the kingdom of God, and gave him the knowledge of the holy things; made him honorable in his labors, and accomplished his labors. In the deceit of them that overreached him, He stood by him, and made him honorable. He kept him safe from his enemies, and defended him from seducers, and gave him a strong conflict, that he might overcome, and know that wisdom is mightier than all. She forsook not the just when he was sold, but delivered him from sinners: she went down with him into the pit, and in bands she left him not, till she brought him the sceptre of the kingdom, and power against those that oppressed him; and showed them to be liars that had accused him: and the Lord our God gave him everlasting glory.

The just shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow up like the cedar of Lebanon in the house of the Lord. To show forth Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth in the night.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he hath been proved, he shall receive the crown of life. Alleluia.

At that time Jesus spoke this parable to His disciples: A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And calling his ten servants, he gave them ten pounds; and said to them, Trade till I come. But his citizens hated him; and they sent an embassy after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. And it came to pass that he returned, having received the kingdom; and he commanded his servants to be called, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. And the first came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds; and he said to him, Well done, thou good servant, because thou hast been faithful in a little, thou shalt have power over ten cities. And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds: and he said to him, Be thou also over five cities. And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin; for I feared thee, because thou art an austere man; thou takest up what thou didst not lay down, and thou reapest that which thou didst not sow. He saith to him, Out of thy own mouth I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knowest that I was an austere man, taking up what I laid not down, and reaping that which I did not sow: and why then didst thou not give my coming I might have exacted it with usury? And he said to them that stood by, Take the pound away from him, and give it to him that hath the ten pounds. And they said to Him, Lord, he hath ten pounds. But I say to you, that to every one that hath shall be given, and he shall abound; and from him that hath not, even that which he hath shall be taken from him.

My truth and My mercy shall be with him: and in My name shall his horn be exalted.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O almighty God, that as blessed Louis, Thy confessor, spurning the delights of the world, strove only to please Christ, his King, so his prayer may render us acceptable to Thee. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Blessed is that servant, whom when his Lord shall come he shall find so doing. Amen I say to you, he shall place him over all his goods.

O God, Who didst make Thy blessed confessor, Louis, wonderful on earth and glorious in Heaven, constitute him, we beseech Thee, the defender of Thy Church. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.